

**1874**



# **CISCO ILLINOIS**



**1974**





# CISCO



Bird's-eye view of Cisco, looking east.

## PREFACE

Great are the changes that generations have seen and their hands have aided in bringing about. We are heir to the yesterdays that our ancestors developed, and indebted to them for today and for what is hoped for tomorrow.

This Centennial book is an attempt to give an insight into Cisco 1874-1974, though it really began before 1874. A book of this type involves the cooperation, enthusiasm, support and suggestions of many people. It is not easy to try to record history for many facts and ideas must be omitted and many are unknown or are remembered in various ways.

We, the preparers of this book, hope that it serves as a reminder of the past telling how the people lived, while instilling the desire to look forward to another century for the Cisco community, though the future cannot be told. We believe that it will help preserve "happenings" which would soon be lost to the ages. We express our gratitude to everyone and apologize for any omission or untruth.

We would like to express a special "Thank you" to Vera Root for her informative material and many hours of research.



"Clouds Over Cisco" by Clementine Marquis.



Cisco started as a farming community and remains as one today, for most of the businesses are farm related. Many of the townspeople commute to other work in Decatur or Monticello. This story of Cisco has tried to reach back through the past 100 years to learn more of our town's history and the events that have shaped it as it is today.

The first white people to arrive in Piatt County found Indians, not dangerous ones, but friendly Delaware, Kickapoo and Potawattamie tribes. Arrowheads and other Indian artifacts have been found throughout the area. On some of the farms are indications of buffalo wallows, as well as areas called "The Dead Sea." Few white people had been in this area before Illinois became a state in 1818, as they had been settling in the southern part first. Settlers began moving into the northern section in 1825.

In 1838, Edward Ater came to the area which is now Willow Branch Township to complete a land purchase made by his father, Thomas Ater. Among those he found here were Emanuel Clover, Michael Dillow, Thomas Henderson, John Moore, William Piatt, James Reber, John Sea, Mr. Shuman, John West and Washington Zinn. Soon Samuel Havelly and the Armsworths came. When Ed Ater arrived, he went to the Clover home to get a night's lodging, but they were all ill with the Ague. He went on to the Reber home, then the John West home, still encountering the Ague. He continued to the James Piatt cabin in Monticello, where the family graciously opened their home to the stranger, although Mr. Piatt was in his last illness with typhoid fever. Peter Croniger came from Ohio in 1839, making the trip in nine days. He drove three horses to a wagon, accompanied by Isaac Faylor. Within a few months he had 130 acres of his land "under fence," using oak rails, had dug a well and built a house.

The early settlers made their homes along streams, shunning the prairies because they believed them unfit for farming, and Willow Branch is prairie. The settlers needed timber for their homes, fuel and barns. The easiest way was to cut the trees for a clearing, build their cabin and use the surrounding cleared area for crops.

A settler brought with him an ax and rifle. With the help of his neighbors he built his cabin, usually 14 to 16 foot square and without glass, nails, hinges, and locks. A fireplace was built in one end, and pelts lined the ceiling. A log was left out along one side and sheets of strong paper, well greased with coon-grease or bear-grease were tacked in place, to serve as windows. Everyone was his own carpenter, and some used considerable ingenuity in the construction of tools, utensils and furniture.

Horse collars were often made of braided husk of corn sewed together. They were easy on the neck of the horse and would last a long while.

Women made nearly all the clothing worn by the family and every home had a card-loom and a spinning wheel. Dresses were made plain with four widths of

material in the skirt. The waist was short and sleeves were large and tapered. Many ribbons and bows were worn, but little jewelry. The men wore light colored "jeans" and lindsey woolsey hunting shirts.

Wild meat was plentiful, and small patches of Indian corn were raised and a meal ground to make a coarse but wholesome bread. Johnny cakes and ponies were served for dinner while mush and milk was a favorite supper. The garden furnished roasting ears, pumpkins, beans, squash and potatoes. Coffee and tea were used sparingly while maple sugar was much used and honey was only 5c a lb. Butter and eggs were cheap, and chickens were seen in great numbers around the cabin.



Feeding the chickens in 1909.

The amusements of that day were quite athletic. Dancing was a favorite, along with foot racing, target shooting, jumping and wrestling. Quilting and spinning bees were favorite activities of the women and girls, as well as being practical.

For many years the settlers made no effort to cultivate the prairie, because they thought it was not fertile, since it did not grow trees. The prairie grew grass, often taller than a man's head, and there were prairie fires. Mr. P. C. Young came to Willow Branch Township in 1863 as a four year old. As a child he used to herd cattle on the site of Cisco. When he was a grown man he built a log cabin on the prairie across the road from the present Bud Barnhart home. In those days of log cabins, prairie fires were greatly feared for the home would burn readily and fire spread through the grasses faster than a horse could run. The soil around the cabin was plowed to protect it. Men working in the fields would set fires to burn off an area for themselves and their horses, if a fire occurred. They would place themselves and the horses inside the burned off area for safety.

If the early settlers could see their farm land today, they eyes would probably pop for there have been so many changes. Their early attempts at farming were made under extreme hardship, clearing the forest areas, which meant cultivating around the stumps and on the slopes. As time went along they would try to remove the stumps, which could be dangerous. In the early 1900's James Hendrix lost his



First binders in the Cisco area.

sight blasting stumps. Their plowing was done by hand. The corn was cut and shocked, being husked as needed and shelled by hand or small hand mill. Wheat and oats were cut with a scythe, stacked in shocks and threshed by a flail. To go to a mill for grinding was a long trip to Decatur or Danville. To market the grain was a similar trip or one to Chicago by horse and wagon.

The pioneer farmer had to drain his land if he was to use the prairie, for it was a swamp in the rainy season. Some one invented a molelike contraption with a cutting blade that went ahead of the mole which when pulled through the ground made smooth packed runways for water. Thus they were able to drain the prairies, making good farm land. These lasted for years. In the 1880's tile was manufactured and put in for drainage. Drainage ditches are used to help carry the water.

Changes in farming came with new implements, though corn was still husked by hand until the 1930's. Farm wagons were fitted with "bump boards" making an extension to the height, keeping the corn from going over the wagon, when the walking husker pulled the ears of corn from the husk and stalk, and threw them into the wagon. The horses pulling the wagons walked along as though they knew their job. Until the corn dump was invented, the husker had to scoop the corn into the crib. Extra help was usually needed at

shucking time, and each fall a number of fellows came from southern Illinois and Kentucky, to help with the work. They were paid by the bushel, and given room and board while they were shucking corn. There was competition as to who would pick the most bushels a day among the fellows. This led to shucking contests. Now we find the mechanical corn picker giving way to the combine sheller, as man gave way to the picker or the horse gave way to the tractor.

Instead of the threshing of the wheat and oats by a flail, the grains began to be cut and bound by a binder, shocked; and threshed by steam powered threshing machines. The community was divided into threshing rings with the gang following from farm to farm. The farmers worked in the field, their wives worked in the kitchen, and the kids had fun. A lavish meal was served at noon, so the saying that someone had "cooked enough for threshers." The straw was made into a stack and used for bedding and feed. Sometimes it was baled. The hay was done in this manner or put in the mow loose. Now wheat and oats are combined.

Piatt County was formed in 1841, because it was too far to go to the county seat in Decatur. It had been a part of Macon County. Willow Branch was known as Liberty Precinct until the townships were organized in 1860. The first supervisor was Elias Hall.



Plowing



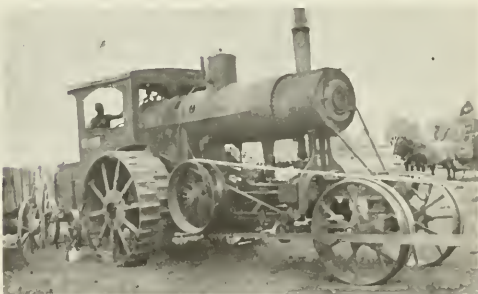
Hauling corn



David Swarts and Preston Reed with a load of hay.



Unloading corn in 1912 on the Will Davis farm.



Old engine at threshing time.



Horse drawn binder and shocking wheat at McKinneys.



Thresher and crew: Charles Olson, Ernest Wikowsky, "Sebe" Sebens, Ernest Richardson and \_\_\_\_\_.





Butchering day at Harve Royse's in 1914: Mary Ellen Royse, Mary Stillabower, Josie Olson, Jess Stillabower, Oscar Olson, John Royse, William Bruns, Harve Royse and John Goken.



April 1913 — ready for market — average 1270 lbs. and brought \$8.48/100 wt.



Mule team at John Royse's in 1917.



Stanley Mackey and teams.

The name of Willow Branch was derived from the fact that early settlers settled near the tributary called "The Branch," and forded the Sangamon River near a large Willow Tree. All were in the same area. This ford is where the Hog Chute Bridge is located.

Other landmarks are Wolf Run and Wild Cat Creek, both tributaries to the north, and Stringtown Lane to the north of the township.

In 1860 before Cisco became a town there was one house on the present town site. It was built by Dr. S. V. Purdy.

As with most towns, Cisco grew where it did because of a railroad. The Monticello Railroad was incorporated in 1861 just prior to the Civil War. The war curtailed most construction for the duration. In 1867 the company secured deeds to the right of way. By 1869 the law permitted Townships without a railroad to vote bonds and assist in building one. The Monticello Company planned to build a railroad from Champaign through Monticello to Decatur, there to join with the Decatur and East St. Louis Line to be completed shortly. However, five years later no track had been laid. A contract was let in March of 1871 but there was difficulty in raising the money. By 1872 this company finished the road from Champaign to Monticello. The line from White Heath to Havana and the in 1873 by the Havana, Mason City, Lincoln and Eastern. For the next several years the road led a precarious existence. It first became a part of the Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western and the original plat of Cisco so labels the railroad as the I.B. & W.R.R. (In 1973 it is the New York Central.) Some of the men who worked on the railroad as it went through Cisco boarded with Mrs. Patsy Reardon, mother-in-law of John Jeffords, the harness maker.



Cisco Depot and the Livery Stable.

It was in 1874 that the depot was built with E. F. Dallas the first ticket agent.

Later the line became a part of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific and in 1886 when the latter was falling apart the Illinois Central entered into an agreement with Harriman, who was picking up the pieces at bargain prices. They were looking forward to getting the "Pea Nut Line", so named by James C. Clarks, president of the Illinois Central. Jeffrey, general manager of the Illinois Central had written to

President Clarks stating that because the I.C. was losing business to this line that the "Pea Nut Line" was "the most desirable piece of railroad for us to acquire in the Corn belt." The I.C. finally got control in January 1887. Men who worked on this branch called it the "Hack Line." Other names for the line were "Puddle Jumper" and "Old Barney." The name was derived from "Barney Maley from Cisco, Illinois," an employee of the railroad.

It was April 24, 1874 that the station Cisco was platted. Four men owned the land that cornered up to the center of the town. They got C. D. Moore, the Piatt County Surveyor, to plat the village of Cisco on February 4, 5, 6, and 7 of 1874. These landowners were Hiram Dodge who owned 640 acres to the northwest of the center, E. F. Dallas, who owned 80 acres extending north a half mile from the center of Cisco, Thomas Watson, who owned the 80 acres extending a mile east from the town's center, and Abraham Runkle who owned 40 acres to the southwest.

Recorded in the Piatt County Courthouse at Monticello, Illinois is the original plat of Cisco. Also recorded there in beautiful script is the following:

"Know all these men by these present, that we, Hiram Dodge of Watseka, Illinois, E. F. Dallas, Thomas Watson and Abraham Runkle of Piatt County, Illinois have authorized the laying out of the Town of Cisco as described on the annexed plat, certified by the Surveyor of Piatt County, Illinois, and we do hereby relinquish and donate to the use of the public the streets and alleys in said Town, as in said plot specified. In testimony whereof we have set our hands and seals this 24th day of April, A.D. 1874.

Hiram Dodge (seal)  
Erastus F. Dallas (seal)  
Abraham Runkle (seal)  
Thomas Watson (seal)

I. L. Bond, Notary Public in and for said county and state.

April A.D. 1874."

Since these men had no seals they drew a rectangle of "e's" and wrote SEAL inside it.



Original Plat of Cisco

On the plat the surveyor indicated the exact locations where he had stones placed for future measuring.

One should notice that the town was named before the foregoing agreement was signed. There are several stories as to how the town got its name but Mrs. Prudie Huffmaster told Vera Root repeatedly that her father always said the town was named for the mother of Erastus F. Dallas. She was Francisco Dallas, a highly respected woman who always helped others in the community in their hour of need. The last of her given name was used for the town name. Another story has it that it was suggested by one of the men doing the surveying for the railroad. He had surveyed for a town in Nevada for the Union Pacific by that name. You may have heard the story that Cisco in Spanish means "copper" but persons who know Spanish say they never heard of that.

At the time Cisco was platted in 1874 there were 50 persons living on the site.

The first station agent was E. F. Dallas. The next agent was Nannie Moffett, and since she was a woman, men of the village would gather to help unload freight when a train came in. Gabe Davenport came next and about this time Lee McGinnis operated a dray service to haul freight to business houses. When the streets were muddy in the early spring or after a hard rain, or when the roads had deep frozen ruts in winter, Lee's tram had a hard time hauling the freight. King Pattengale came to Cisco in the early 1900's and he served in this capacity for several years.

At that time there were four trains a day that would carry passengers. The arrival of a train was always an attraction and townsfolk went to see who came to town and who left town.

In 1902 the train schedule read as follows:

#### Trains Pass Cisco

No. 726 going East.....	8:00 o'clock a.m.
No. 725 going West.....	9:45 o'clock a.m.
No. 722 going East.....	4:07 o'clock p.m.
No. 703 going West.....	9:45 o'clock p.m.

In 1911 the Cisco Telegrapher and Operator was paid \$55.00 a month. The fare between Cisco and Clinton, if you went first class, was \$1.20 one way. If you went by coach a one way fare was 80c. As autos became more prevalent there were fewer passengers and so passenger service through Cisco was discontinued in 1939. When the service was in operation in the earliest days one bought his ticket at the station but later paid his fare after boarding the train. Train fare between Monticello and Cisco one way was 25c first class and 20c by coach. One way fares between Cisco and Argenta were 20c first class and 15c by coach.

The stations on the railroad branch between White Heath and Decatur were Monticello, Amenia, Cisco, Argenta, Oreana, and Green Switch.

In the year 1943 the Cisco Station Operator was paid 43c an hour. As freight was hauled more and more frequently by truck the job as station agent became a part time one. Small parcels were no longer handled after Jan 15, 1963 and only carload lots were carried.



Train Time

Sam Berkler, Don Stewart, and Barney Giffin were station agents. Mrs. Greenfield served both Cisco and Argenta for a time. Dale Riggins began here in 1963. He served from 12 to 14 stations using his truck to work from. His reporting headquarters was Decatur.



## Village Government and the Town Hall

A copy of the *Municipal Code of the Village of Cisco* that was revised and adopted on June 4, 1906 tells us of the village officials and ordinances at that time. The officials were: President, six members of the Board of Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Marshal of Streets, and Police Magistrate. Other chapters set forth the ordinances on village limits; inspection of flues and chimneys; health department; the corporate seal (the corporate seal of Cisco is circular and says on the outside, "Village of Cisco, Piatt County, Ill." Across the middle it says, "Corporate Seal."); fire limits; concrete sidewalks; finances; streets and alleys; sidewalks and public grounds; railroads; licenses; nuisances; misdemeanors; recovery of fines and penalties. At the time this code was adopted Levi A. Weddle was the Village President and Arburthnot Hugh Lyons was Clerk. The booklet was published August 25, 1906 by the Republican Printing Company of Monticello. Ruby Leach's older sister recalls that she wrote a copy of the ordinances in a new ledger for Bert Lyons when she was in school.

In the *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Piatt County*, Francis Shonkwiler says that in 1899, Jason Simer was President of the Board, King Pattengill was Clerk, S. L. Grove was Commissioner of Highways, A. L. Lyons was Justice of the Peace, and Edward Salsbury was Constable. Those who had served on the County Board to represent Willow Branch Township were Peter Croninger, David Moyer, W. F. Stevenson, Thomas Ater, Thomas Mintun, James Ownby, F. H. McCartney, E. L. Croninger, F. S. Wellepp, W. W. Parish, Chas. Baker, George W. Widick, and Charles T. Parr.



The President and six members of the Board of Trustees were elected and their salaries were set by themselves and were not to be changed for a year. Four trustees and the President would constitute a quorum. If at any meeting a quorum was not present, the President was to direct the Marshall to go for the missing members. Any Board member who had absented himself without just cause such as illness was to be arrested and fined \$10 if he refused to attend the meeting. Any trustee so disorderly could be expelled by a two thirds vote of the board.

The Village Marshall was appointed by the President and held office one year. The Police Magistrate was to be elected beginning in the year 1908 and every year thereafter.

Some of these ordinances make interesting reading. Here are some:

"No boy nor any other person shall carelessly or heedlessly cast or throw any stone, brick, brick bat, clod, or other missile from or into any public or private house, street, or other place, nor shall in any wise injure or deface any building, fence or shade tree, or shall meddle with or injure any public well, cistern or pump within said village, under a penalty in each case of not less than one dollar nor more than fifty dollars upon conviction."

Any person who "shall keep, offer for sale or sell, or in any way circulate or distribute any obscene or indecent publication, book, pamphlet, paper, print, picture, model, illustration, cast," shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars for each offense.

"Whoever shall purposely, heedlessly, rapidly or immoderately ride or drive any horse, mule, cattle or other like animal, or any team in such manner as to be dangerous to person or property, in said village, may be stopped by any person, and shall be stopped by the village marshall, and shall upon conviction, be fined not less than three dollars not more than fifty dollars for each offense."

"Whoever shall ride or drive any horse, mule, cattle, or the like, or lead the same, or drive any carriage, wagon, cart or vehicle for pleasure or burden, on or across any sidewalk, boulevard or lawn, where there is no regular approach to the same, shall be fined in any sum not less than three dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars for each offense."

No person shall engage in any game, sport or amusement or put up any exhibit that will frighten horses or teams or interfere with persons using the streets or sidewalks. Fine from \$1 to \$25.

Other ordinances forbade hitching horses to trees, creating a disturbance on a Sunday, doing unnecessary business on Sunday, allowing any "horse, mule, ass, cow, sheep, goat, swine or goose or any like animal to run at large within the limits of said village," nor should any be staked out in any public place.

"It shall be unlawful for any person or firm, or any agent to sell, offer for sale, give away or keep any cigarettes or cigarette paper within the corporate limits of said village, and any person or persons who shall violate this section shall be subject to a fine

of not less than five dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars for each offense."

Other ordinances of that day concerned stables, pens, ditches, slop, dead animals, barbed wire and hedge fences.

Licenses were required at fifty cents for business establishments, for any show or exhibit other than for home benefit, pool or billiards, drays, hawkers, or peddlers.

One ordinance banned having any amusement open on Sunday including baseball grounds and the fine for disobeying was from three to one hundred dollars.

"It shall be unlawful for any boys or other persons to trespass upon any school property within the village, at any time when there is no school or to loiter about or congregate thereon, under a penalty of not less than two dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each offense."

The above ordinances are still on the books in 1973.

There is no Village Marshall at the present time. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

The present Town Hall was built in 1936 by the WPA and Mr. Harry Lyons was foreman on the job. The third WPA project at the time was to take up the brick sidewalks, clean the bricks to use in building the Town Hall and put in concrete sidewalks. The building was to be equipped with steel lockers, chairs, and tables. The second floor was to be used for Village Board meetings and the first floor for a polling place for town and township elections.

During the 1940's the fire engine for the fire district was kept on the first floor. When an election was to be held the fire engine was run out so the first floor could be used as a polling station.

The present Cisco Board is:

Jack Drew, Mayor  
Charles Winters, Clerk  
Gene Pirtle, Treasurer  
Sam Clark

Otto Mazzei  
Larry Edwards  
Delbert Williams  
Earl Wright



Entering from the west in 1974.

## The Telford Building

William H. Telford built Cisco's largest store on the northwest corner of Main and Dodge Streets. It was a frame building 124 foot long and 24 foot wide. It had 3 rooms on the first floor. The room to the south took up two-thirds of the building with the remaining one-third divided into 2 rooms.

The second floor of the building was divided into two large halls named Castle Hall and Areli Hall. These could be reached by an enclosed stairway on the east side of the building from Main Street.

There was a loading platform on the west side of the building. Merchandise came to town on the train and a horse and dray would haul it to the loading platform of the store.



Street scene on West Dodge Street.

The building on Dodge Street just west of the restaurant was also destroyed by the 1910 fire. This, at one time, housed the newspaper office and a barber shop.



Telford building and restaurant.

Pictures of this building show that wooden planks held up by blocks of wood or tile provided seats on the Main Street and Dodge Street sides of the building. Here the weary could rest or sit and visit.

The Telford building burned in 1910.

## The Hitchins Building

G. W. Hitchins rebuilt a one story brick building on the above mentioned site extending about two-thirds as long as the previous Telford Building. A general store, Armsworth's Hardware and our present day antique store have all been located here.

Just north of the Telford on the west side of Main St. there was a small building in which there was a millinery shop and later a grocery and a doctor's office. The Town Hall, which was built as a W.P.A. project, is now located in approximately the same site.

West of the Telford building on Dodge St. was the Opera House. This building was the re-modeled first church built for the Methodist congregation of Cisco. It was bought for \$100 in 1899 and moved from the church site to its up town location. This was really used as a community center. This building also burned in the big fire of 1910.

West of the Opera House was a building which had a restaurant and ice cream parlor in it. It burned in 1910.

## The Swam Building

Fred Swam built a large brick building of two rooms, two doors north of the bank, in the center of the block on Main Street in 1910. The north room has served as a garage and the electric plant. The south room was a blacksmith's, a movie house, auto sales and a grocery. Clem Colgan used the building from 1947-1965 as an office and warehouse for his seed business. The building is presently owned by the Cisco Co-op Elevator.

In the only frame building left of the early Cisco, next door to the bank, has been a restaurant, a millinery shop, a creamery and bakery, Dr. Rhodes' office and previous and present day barber shop.

Across the street east of the Telford building was the Bank Building. It was built in 1897. It has also been used for a grocery and Post Office, the Cook and Doane electrical business and is presently owned by the Cisco Co-op Elevator.

## REMEMBER WHEN?

Cisco village census 1920 (345), 1910 (379), 1900 (360), and Willow Branch Township 1920 (1133), 1910 (1518) and 1900 (1579).

Style change in 1874: "Only recent change in the style of wearing the hair is the addition of the coronet braid. Also, gauze dresses, chatelaine pockets, improvised bracelets, silver mounted fans and sleeveless dresses."

1874: "The railroad question is a national issue — in regard to interstate railroads, to provide cheaper transportation, secure safety and comfort of passengers, reform abuses and promote general efficiency of railroads —"

"The U.S. furnished, in 1897, more than one-half the wheat required by Europe."

When corn was selling for 10c a bushel and a loaf of bread was 5c?



Main Street, Hotel, Shaff Drug Store and Odd Fellows Building.

### *The Odd Fellows Building*

The Odd Fellows Building was a 2-story brick structure that stood two doors south of the hotel. There were three tall windows on the second floor and above the middle one was a stone inset which said "No. 599 I.O.O.F." About 1920 this building burned.

### *The W. H. Jones Building*

In the early 1890's William H. Jones built a building on the east side of Main street. It was a frame one with a part of it having two stories. It had a roof that extended over a wooden sidewalk for its entire length of 100 feet. Mr. Jones sold paint, carpet, furniture, hardware, tin ware, windmills, stoves, pumps, Oakland and Reo cars, and farm implements.

A large tin shed was on the southeast corner of Main and South Streets and was used by Mr. Jones for implement storage.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones lived in a house behind the store for many years until they built the largest house in the village which still stands today at the south edge of town. We know that Mr. Jones was in business here in 1899 and until after 1915. He sold out and went to Decatur.

About 1920 the Odd Fellows Building burned down and the Jones Building south of it was damaged. Some



Main Street Drug Store, I.O.O.F. Building, W. H. Jones store.

recall how men on top of the Jones building doused the roof with water to prevent its being destroyed. Boys from the town helped to clean mortar off the bricks of the ruined building so they could be used to rebuild the one used now as a Post Office. The Jones building was torn down in the 1930's.

At one time there was a building between the Jones Building and the corner that now has a service station on it. This house had two rooms, one was a shoe repair and the other a doctor's office. A photographer also used it at one time. The building was torn down.

### *Runkle Building*

South of the railroad tracks and on the southeast corner of Main and South Railroad Streets was a 2-story frame building painted yellow, built in 1874. It was built by Abraham Runkle, one of the original four who donated land for Cisco. The upstairs was reached by an enclosed stairway on the north and it was called Runkle Hall. School was held upstairs and also the Methodist Church started here in 1874.

The brick building which replaced the Runkle Building, at first had three rooms on the first floor. Among the various businesses that have been active here are a restaurant, the Post Office and grocery, an implement dealer, a pool hall, a drug store, Weddle and McKinley grocery, and now contains the field office for the state engineers. Wilfred Johnson is the present owner.

### *The U. S. Post Office*

Cisco's first Post Office was in the middle room of the Telford Building. Oscar Harper was the first postmaster and was the second grocer, having bought out E. F. Dallas. Other early postmasters were James St. John, John McGinnis, who walked two and a quarter miles to and from town daily to his home, and John Jeffords. Florence Crandall, niece of John Jeffords, Sr., came to live in his home and assist in the post office. Miss Esther Coay and Miss Goldie Daves were also postmistresses. Mrs. Sam Clover served as postmistress when her husband had a store in the south room of the rebuilt Runkle Building. The Post Office was on the southeast side of the store. When he moved to the Bank Building, the Post Office was located there also. Mable Lyons was assistant postmistress for thirty-two years.

Later the Post Office was in the elevator office on the west side of Main Street. From here it was moved to the Shaff Building which stood between the hotel and Odd Fellows Building. In 1947 the Post Office was moved into the Bank Building. Jim Giesler was postmaster from 1946 to April 15, 1949, when Everett Giesler, Jim's father, became postmaster and Jim took a rural route carrier job. Rural delivery started in 1902. At one time there were two rural routes out of Cisco. Mail carriers were Oscar A. Rinehart, Sam Clover, Simon Gisinger, Harry Lyons, Harry Mintun, Francis Swarts, David Swarts. These routes were later combined into one. Beginning late in March of 1973 — the Cisco rural route is out of Bement, starting and ending there.





At the Post Office: Mr. Jeffords, Lastler Coay, Francis Swarts and Oscar Rinehart.

The Post Office was moved into the rebuilt brick building on the site of the Odd Fellows Building, May 1958. This is a one story structure built by Scott Armsworth.

### CISCO, PIATT COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Established on June 11, 1874

<i>Postmasters</i>	<i>Appointment Dates</i>
Oscar Harper .....	June 11, 1874
Leo J. Wienstein .....	December 30, 1874
John M. Dashiell .....	August 2, 1877
George W. Reynolds .....	April 23, 1883
Jesse B. Irwin .....	October 20, 1884
James B. St. John .....	October 29, 1885
Daniel H. Clow .....	July 29, 1886
William McGinnis .....	December 29, 1886
Jesse B. Irwin .....	October 17, 1891
William McGinnis .....	April 13, 1893
J. F. McGinnis (failed to qualify) ..	December 8, 1896
Jesse B. Irwin .....	July 12, 1897
John H. Jeffords .....	October 11, 1899
Esther C. Coay (named changed to Hawley by marriage on December 16, 1911) ..	May 22, 1911
Dorothy G. Daves .....	January 15, 1913
Marilla Clover .....	January 29, 1915
James A. Giesler (acting) .....	January 31, 1946
(assumed charge) .....	February 1, 1946
(confirmed) .....	July 1, 1947
Everet L. Giesler (assumed charge) ..	April 15, 1949
(confirmed) .....	June 29, 1950
Jackie Lee Floyd (assumed charge) ..	May 31, 1964
(confirmed) .....	March 14, 1966



Girls' basketball team, 1912-13.

## Schools

The first schools for children in the country were rural schools. If one has not attended or taught a country school, one can not appreciate them. In the early times the teacher lived in the district or lived with one of the families. The teacher went early, built a fire, swept the floor, carried cobs, coal or wood, cleaned and dusted. Then it was time to start to teach the students. Classes were many, all subjects for all grades represented or alternating some grades each year. It certainly developed independence and initiative.

School was held in 14 or so rural schools but as the population decreased and transportation became easier, these schools were closed and the children were transferred into Cisco.

The first school in Willow Branch Township was taught by Judge Edward Ater, about 1840 in a log schoolhouse on the Willow Branch. Among some of the early teachers at Willow Branch were Robert Barton, J. Hull Brown, Caleb and Riley Tatman, the Suver sisters and Thomas Lamb, Jr. The school was extensively repaired, new seats put in and a well sunk in 1902.



Oak Grove School

Oak Grove School was among the early rural schools of this area. It was built, 3 miles southeast of Cisco in 1890. Dorr M. Simer received \$1340 for teaching there in 1920. In 1935, fourteen students were in attendance. Elaine McCartney and Marjorie McCartney were among the many teachers.

Excelsior school house stood on the south side of Stringtown Lane just 2 miles west of Wild Cat Creek.



New Union School. Edwin Pilchard (teacher), Mildred McIntosh, Berlyn Brown, Earle McIntosh, Homer Doane, Clifford Weddle.

New Union School was located northeast of town just off Stringtown Lane. In 1898 enrollment was 19 and average attendance was 17. C. W. Briggs was the teacher. Carl Pattengill received \$900 for a year of teaching here in 1920. Helen Borchers was among the many who taught here.

Havely School was located 3 miles southwest of town at the edge of the county. It is named for Samuel (Captain) Havely who lived and owned a half a section here. He was an early comer and was in the Mexican War. Elizabeth Reeves and Lois Balding are among the teachers here. This is now the residence of the Slifer family.



Havely School, 1907. Bottom row: Roy Marvin, Viola Elkins, Owen Dodd, Cecil Rainey, Ira McCartney, Orris Marvin. Second row: Ward McCartney, ———, Clinty Dodd, Goldie Elkins, ———, Willard Dodd, Wayne McCartney, Jim Edwards. Third row: Minnie McDavitt (teacher), Kathryn Byrum, Tot Bouncer, Lois Rainey, Sylvia Elkins, Goldie Edwards, Alice Miller, and Bill Dodd.

East Cisco was built in 1901. It was located 2 miles straight east of town on the north side of the road. Esther Bevelhimer received \$1080 for a year of teaching in 1920. Leora Miller served as teacher in 1937-38.



Pleasant Ridge School. Front row: Paul Niles, Kenneth Garriot, Mary Garriot, Ronald Reeves, Lois Reeves; Second row: Eugene Garriot, Patricia Rannebarger, Harold Dean Cheatham, Frances Reeves, Robert Niles. Back row: Mrs. Garriot, Blanche Niles, Maxine Cheatham, Ruth Reeves and Clarice Cornell (teacher).

Pleasant Ridge School was located just inside Macon County on Stringtown Lane, 3 miles northwest of Cisco. It was built in 1855. This school served hot lunches before it consolidated into Cisco, the teacher being Clarice Cornell Dresback. Margaret Pattengale was also a teacher here. Competitive spelling "bees"

were held between country schools. Pleasant Ridge carried home the honors in 1898.

Prospect School was built on the county line four miles northwest of Cisco. In 1911 the old building was moved to the rear of the lot so that school could continue while a new schoolhouse could be erected. The new building was considered quite modern with its new basement. E. O. Martin and his daughters, Geneva and Juanita were teachers here. Lois Ward was the last teacher.

Enterprise School, built in 1873, was situated across from the Enterprise M.E. Church, five miles northeast of Cisco. The building itself cost \$750, while the coal house and fences cost \$130. Among some of the teachers were: Elizabeth and Bert Reeves, Lola Huisinga and three of the Grethe sisters — Antonia, Jeanetta and Ottaline. Three generations of Kingstons served as school directors. In 1945 this school consolidated and students went to Weldon, Deland and Cisco.



Enterprise Grade School, 1912. Front row: Mary Smith, Ellen Roysse, Margaret Carr, Benice Olson, Oressa Goken, Florence Stillabower, Wayne Roysse, Lotus Carr, Opal Roysse, Geneva Goken, Eva Cloud, Perley Stillabower, Charles Carr, Earl Cloud, Aileen Roysse; middle row: Dora Carr, Josie Olson, Mollie Kingston, Cora Davis, Helena Roysse, Ordella Goken, Lillie Owen, Mrs. Poppywell, Dora Hatch, Alice Stillabower, Bert Reeves (teacher), Carl Kingston; back row: Johnny Kingston, William Davis, Charles Carr, Sr., James Floyd, John Goken, Mr. Poppywell, John Stillabower holding Frances, Verner Hatch, Louis Dammerman, Ray Kingston, William Stillabower, Harvey Stillabower, John Roysse, Harve Roysse.

Other schools in this district were: West Cisco, Shady Nook and Wild Cat.



Shady Nook School: Gene Allen, Ruby Allen Higgins, Elmer Rhodes, Ceril Cacket, John Benjamin, Paul Lawson, Harry Allen, Martha Gill, William Gill, Irwin Swam, Freda Benjamin Marvel, Lois Gill, Floyd Gill, Edwin Swam, Mary Allen Fish.





CISCO PUBLIC SCHOOL, 1921

Front row: Lillie Alexander, teacher; Dean Wiseman, Herb Reason, ———, ——— Walker, Lawrence Gisinger, Harley Swarts, Paul Pattengale, Elwin Eubank, Jeanette Cornell, Mildred Lyons, Elizabeth Dye, Gladys Bush, Paul McKinney, Geneva Walker, Frances Rinehart, ———, Beasley, Marlin Reed, Lawrence Blue, Lloyd Gisinger, Curtis Clow, Paul Dean Sullivan, Ervin Swam, Ileen Coon, ——— Remmers, Evelyn Ater, Willard Dial, George Miller, Forest Boss, ——— Boss.

Second row: Steve Minton, janitor; Helen Jones, Esther Bevelheimer, Jessie Parr (teachers), Harold Paugh, Edwin Swam, Donald Weddle, Paul Miles, Donald Whisnant, ———, Hunsley, Wilmer Reason, Kathryn Barnhart, Mary Catherine McKinney, Mable Olson, Opal Eubanks, Mildred Rannebarger, Othella Taylor, Don Walker, Kenneth Wiseman, Ralph Minton, Thelma Miles, Leland Clover, ———, Geneva Dial, Elsie Boss, Bina Lyons, Myrtle McAttee, Lorene Sullivan, Lois Rannebarger, Helen Paugh, Clarice Cornell,

Enid Haneline, Emma Gisinger, Mary Clover.

Third row: Park Simer, ———, ——— Hunsley, Gerald Wiseman, Byron Rainey, Roy Hoover, ———, Gertrude Coffin, Nellie Rannebarger, LaVerne Barnhart, Oneta Beasley, Thelma Conrad, Pauline Rannebarger, Judy Lyons, Gertrude Hoover, ———, Jeannette Shaff, Maxine Stackhouse, Stella Rannebarger, Margaret Pattengale, Marcell Conrad, ———, ———, Floyd Rannebarger, ———, Dick Reason, Evelyn Patterson, Mildred ———, Fern Ensign.

Fourth row: Leonard Rinehart, Roy Rannebarger, James Thomas, ———, Harold Ensign, Byron Clover, Pearl Reason, Berlyn Sullivan, Ethel Albert, Leora Eubanks, Edythe Brame, Hazel Taylor, Mary McCartney, Margaret Kistler, Mildred Armistworth, Vira Minton, Bethel Taylor, Hugh Gadbury, Leroy Conrad, Raymond Shull, Freddie Paugh, Loren Pattengill, Lawrence Coon, Ralph Shaff, Virgil Miller, Roy McCartney.

The first school in the village of Cisco is reported to have been a subscription school held in the Runkle Building. This meant that each parent who sent a child made direct arrangements with the teacher for paying for teaching the child. Ada Nogle (Weillepp) was one of the early teachers.

The first schoolhouse in the village was a wooden frame building of one room erected on the site of the present school. A recently found newspaper clipping dated July 31, 1885 says that R. L. Dickerson of Cisco was awarded the contract to build a Cisco school for \$1,000. The item says this bid was \$10 less than any other bid. It also states that Cisco people were pleased that a local builder got the job.

A 2-story two room school was built on this same site in 1887 and was used until 1900. The second building was moved by using a horse and capstan to take it south on Eldon Street, across the tracks into an area on the west side of Eldon and South Railroad Street (this is north of and behind Larry Edward's house in 1974). Harry Lyons recalls it was used as a horse barn with the blackboards still in it.

In 1900, a brick, 2-story, four room, well lighted, heated by a furnace, and well ventilated building was erected on the same site. The total cost was \$6,000. The building was not ready for use when school opened in the fall, and the children attended classes in the Runkle building. The primary grades attended classes in a room on the first floor, and the upper grades in the hall upstairs. The two teachers at this time were Susie Merker and Lillian Grey. Ruby Leach's sister recalls these facts as she started to school that year. She also remembers that the children were taught to write by placing corn kernels over the letters written with chalk on their desks.



Cisco School

Two years of high school were offered in the new brick building and later three years were taught. Students could transfer for the fourth year to the school of their choice. Some went to Weldon, Monticello, Argenta, Decatur and Cerro Gordo. Families had to furnish the student transportation. There were a few car pools, but many were forced to take room and board in the other towns and return home only on weekends.

Wooden board sidewalks were built south of the school. They were raised and were in bridge fashion because water stood so deep.





Cisco Grade School. First row: Park Simer, Grace Gisinger, Mary Oxley, Erna Dooley, Frances Williams, Gladys Ater, Ruby Clover, Bertha Dooley, Bernard Pattengale, Walter Hott. Standing: Phoebe Coay, Lettie Eubanks, Jessie Parr, Irene Widick, Dorr Simer, Cecil Young, Jessie Young, Lillie Coay, and Irene Kingston.



Cisco High School, 1924-25. Front: ———, Cynthia Niles, Nellie Rannebarger, Jeanette Shaff, Margaret Pattengale, Pauline Scott, Pauline Rannebarger. Middle row: Dean McCartney, Byron Rainey, Dorothy Hayworth (teacher), Stella Rannebarger, Juanita Martin, Maxine Stackhouse, Virginia Auten, Ambrose Turner. Back row: Lyle Barnhart, Frank Wrench (principal), Roy Hoover, Wayne Royse, Wilbur Allman, Earl Brame, Kenneth Ensign, Byron Clover and Gerald Wiseman.



Cisco Grade, 1927-28, grades 6, 7, 8. Back row: Thelma Miles, Frances Rinehart, Herb Reason, Harry Allen, Ray Hatfield, Wilmer Reason, Don Whisnant, Lloyd Gisinger, Phyllis Cornell. Second row: Leo Scott, George Miller, Genenieve Dial, Illeen Coon, Freida Benjamin, Faith Garver (teacher), ——— Sullivan, Hildred Lyons, Evelyn Ater, Mabel Olson. Third row: Elizabeth Dye, Doris Sullivan, Elmer Allman, Paul Pattengale, "Shorty" Goken, Paul Dean Sullivan, Marlon Reed, Paul B. McKinley, Ralph Brame, Delora Whisnant, Katheryn Barnhart. Front row: George Benefield, James Geisler, Danny Weddle.

The Cisco School in 1927-28 was District 93 and the school year was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  months long. For that year the high school teachers were Frank Wrench, Helen Hall and Mildred Blan. They taught Math, Science, History, English and Music. The teaching of Math and Science paid \$2,000 and History and English \$1,232.50. There were three grade teachers: Lillie C. Alexander taught 1 and 2; Dessie Troxell taught grades 3, 4 and 5; and Faith Garver taught grades 6, 7 and 8. Their salaries ranged from \$1,020 to \$1,060.50. The Cisco Board at the time were James Heath, W. S. Armsworth, and W. S. Ater.



Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade, 1937. On the bench: Tom Rannebarger, Betty Edwards, Mary Shull. Front row: Peggy Hoff, Wilma Parr, Bill Vannote, Eugene Pirtle, Bill Miller. Second row: Lora Mae Gisinger, Lindsay Coe, Allee Vannote, Betty Calvin, Jim Pride. Third row: David Swarts, Betty Ater, Kathleen Shull, Russell Sullivan, Bob Pride. Fourth row: Elizabeth Calvin, Jean Shull, Clifford Eubank, Pauline Wangler, Bill Rannebarger. Fifth row: Everett Pride, Pauline Schoolcraft, Dean Ripperdan, Leora Benjamin.

In 1936-37 an addition of a gymnasium and four classrooms were added to the school with the labor provided by W.P.A. This addition contained a gym with a playing floor 74 ft. by 44 ft. and an ample, well arranged stage. The gym can be used as an



Cisco High School, 1939. Top: Mr. Itoke, Evelyn Mooney, A. B. Weddle, Marj Reeves, Jean Cain, Francis Chapman, Don Ater, Maurice Doane, Eugene Mills, Robert Mills, Leon Benson. Second: Miss Skeet, Jeanne Leach, Evelyn Dowdle, Mary Gisinger, Helen McKinney, Marilyn Hoff, Harold Briggs, John Schoolcraft, and Mr. Wrench. Third: Zelma Schoolcraft, Virginia McCartney, Emma Lou Johnson, Rose Marie Brame, Chrystine Sullivan, Burt McIntosh, Jack Clifton, Beulah Huisinga. Fourth: Gene Mills, Wayne Phipps, Robert Leach and Harold Swarts.

auditorium and will seat 500 people. The total cost was \$30,000. E. L. Dowdle, W. S. Armsworth, Jason Ripperdam and Bert L. Reeves were on the Board. Frank Wrench was the Superintendent of the School.

In 1945, all of the high school students began to attend Monticello High School and Cisco became an 8 grade school. At this time Clifford Weddle became a board member of Monticello High School.



Cisco Grade School Basketball Team and Cheerleaders, 1947. Front: Jack Miner, "Red" Miller, John McFeeters. Second row: Marilyn Zindar, Loretta Ludwick, Jack Benton, Bill Sago, Ron Reeves, Jack Burton. Third row: Ray Rademacker (coach), Delmar Clow, Duane Woodall, \_\_\_\_\_, Principal Jackson.

The Monticello Unit District was formed in 1948. The Havely School and Enterprise School closed and their children came to town as was earlier done by other country schools.

When the Unit was formed there was one school board for the four grade schools and one high school which included Cisco, White Heath, and Monticello. The Board was to have two members from each of the three participating towns. At the time of its formation the members representing Cisco were Francis Lynch and Lyle McFeeters.

For some years a noon hot lunch program was served in the rented basement of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that was no longer used as a church but was the property of the Masonic Lodge. The school children were taken next door south to the church at noon to get their lunches.



Platt County Baseball Champs, 1948. Loren Lewis is Coach and Principal.



First grade, 1952-53, front row: Donnie Floyd, Eugene Johnson, Mike Swarts, Donny Campbell, Diana Clifton, Joe Mackey, Larry Burton, Robert Pearl, Billy Shull; second row: Melvin Moyer, Larry Bailey, Jerry May, teacher, Kathryn O'Conner.



Cisco Grade School Heavyweight County Champs, 1952: Back row: John Gregory, "Red" Spurling, John Mackey, Gene Statnam (coach), Wayne Reinhart, Raymond Shafer, Dale McIntyre; front row: Gregory Howard, Joe Knupp, Russell Floyd, John Howard, Don Cole.

In 1956, an addition was added to the south and west sides of the school providing three more classrooms, an office, nurse's room and a lunch room with kitchen.

Some of the principals of the school were: Will Underwood, C. C. Walsh, J. E. Nichols, George N. Dunham, D. C. Shaff, Chester M. Echols, John C. Hall, T. H. Pease, E. S. Jones, J. R. Simer, Henry C. Gross, Mr. Glazier, Mr. Mosgrove, Parke Simer in 1920, Frenk Wrench, Lillie Alexander, Mr. Jackson, Loren Lewis, and William Herren, the present principal.

Men who have served on the Unit School Board to represent Cisco include John Whitlow, A. B. Weddle, Jr., Clem Colgan and Bill Armsworth. Fay H. Root went on the board in 1952, became President in 1955 and continued in that capacity until retirement in 1971. Frank Hoffman and Jack Drew are the present board members.





Piatt County Championship Team, 1966-67: Roger Oliver, Scott Hoffman, Mark Swarts, Rick Blythe, Duane Robson, John Miller, Steve Catlin, and Coach Sam Clark.



Class B track team, 1972, first in District. First row: Pat Weber, Dick Haun, Robert Ford, Dennis Hoffman, Bruce Haun, and Mark Fair. (The relay team, two Hauns, Ford and Hoffman, placed first in county, district and sectional, then placed fifth in the state meet). Second row: Kenny Wright, Kenny Bolson, Mike Elson, Randy Baker, David Huisinga, John Howland, Coach Sam Clark.



It was just a quiet little street  
 But as I passed that way  
 I thought of those who had lived and loved  
 And worked there day by day.  
 From such simple homelike streets  
 Have come leaders who've had their say  
 On just such quiet little streets  
 Tomorrow's statesmen now play.

## *The Willow Branch Library*

The Cisco Woman's Club began a project of collecting books for a library. Mrs. P. C. Young was president at the time. Mr. Robert Allerton made a grant in 1918 to assist in collecting a nucleus for such a library. The first books collected were housed in Shaff's Drug Store under the care of Mrs. Fred Shaff. She kept the subject before the community until finally the voters of the township voted a  $1\frac{1}{3}$  mil tax to support a free public library. Then in 1920 the Willow Branch Township Library was organized with directors Mrs. Warren Ater, Mrs. P. C. Young, Mrs. Dillard Bowman, Mrs. Scott Armsworth and H. B. McKinney. Jack Mullins was the first librarian. The first library was on the west side of Main Street, the fourth house from South Street. This had formerly been a dwelling.

A few years later the library was located on the north side of North Street and the second house west of Main Street. Bessie Hitchens served as the second librarian. She served for many years. Some of the other librarians were Irene McKinley, Goldie Cornell and since 1958 Katheryn Sites.

This library became a part of the "Rolling Prairies Library System" in January of 1973. The present library board consists of Sam Clark, Kay B. Drew, Helen Dowdle, Marilyn Mackey, David Swarts, Joyce Slifer and Robert Williams.



Present Library



## *The Baptist Church*

The Southern Baptists established a church in Cisco in 1951 with fifteen charter members. The first minister was Olen Cooperider, a Sangamon Valley Associational Missionary, who was here for six months. Arthur Sutton served a year, Lester Dean served two years and then Olen Cooperider returned for two years. Gregory Osborne was pastor for ten years. Dale Pease came next for a short stay of several months. Anthony Roy of Deland has also served.

About 1953 to 1955 the attendance ran from 65 to 70 of a membership of 80. Some members moved away or took their membership elsewhere. One of the most joyous occasions was the burning of the mortgage in 1958.

The church closed its doors January, 1974.

## *The Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

The Presbyterians in the eastern part of the country believed the ministers in the churches should be schooled in theology. They required four years of college plus seminary training. They soon realized they did not have enough men so well trained to supply the frontier churches. Other denominations were using untrained men and the Presbyterians decided to do so also; but they would indicate a church with a less trained minister as a Cumberland Church. The word Cumberland was taken from the Cumberland Gap which was the gateway to the West. The Presbyterians built a one room frame building in 1875 that was very similar to the Methodist's. The church was located south of the present school and on the same side of Main Street. A second church that was larger and finer than the first church was built on the same site. The corner stone for it was laid June 27, 1908.

Some of the families that belonged to this church were Rainey, Staats, Mintun, Goken, Coon, Jones, Lyons, Oxley, Clow, Graves, Russell, Reinhart, Coay, Pape, Evey and Prahm.

The building committee for the second church was composed of five members: W. H. Jones, E. McGinnis, Joe Rainey, W. H. Ennis and F. M. Coffin. During the planning for this building the question arose as to whether or not it should have a basement. Some who felt there should not be one pulled away from the church, led by Rev. Tuttle, the pastor. This group held separate services in one of the halls in the Telford Building.



**Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

Unfortunately the earliest records of this church are lost and only the minutes of the sessions were available. Bert Reeves in his History of Cisco names as ministers of this denomination — Bankston, Tuttle, Hemp and Shaeffer. Since Rev. Tuttle was here during the split of the church in 1908, we presume these other men were early pastors.

Following are the ministers who served this church: H. D. Trickey 1911, G. D. Humphrey 1911-1913, F. L. Gould 1913-1915, George D. Humphrey 1915-1916, M. E. Morse 1917-1918, G. D. Humphrey 1919-1920; (there is no record from March 1920 to April 1924), M. C. Cockrum 1924-1925, J. W. Elder

1926, F. C. Carpenter 1928-1929 (he was married while serving here), F. A. Gageby 1930, Abram G. Bergen 1931, W. M. Clark 1934-1940, and R. S. Kieser 1940. (He also had the Argenta Presbyterian Church. He was blind and used a seeing-eye dog). In April 1941 the local congregation joined the Argenta Church while Rev. Kieser was still minister.

At a December 1912 service a Jubilee Meeting was held and the paid-off note for \$4,000 was burned. In June that year a hail storm damaged some of the church windows. It is interesting to note that in 1917 the minister with a family of four children received \$1,200 and the use of the manse for his services.

In 1917-1918, Jeff Ennis, Mrs. Lee Ennis, Opal Ennis, W. H. Jones, Eva Cloud and Charles Hunsley held positions in the church. W. H. Jones was a strong supporter of the Presbyterian Church and since he had a pen of deer at his home — he donated a deer so the ladies of the church could serve venison as well as chicken at their fall chicken fries.

A newspaper clipping for March 1928 tells of the celebration at the Presbyterian Church of a Golden Wedding Celebration for five Cisco couples. Three of these couples who celebrated their Fiftieth Anniversary were Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mintun, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Kistler, and Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Coffin. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gisinger celebrated their fifty-first and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Oxley their sixty-second.

The church was reorganized in 1932 with the following elected to office: John Reed, Harry Lyons, Ray Mills, Mr. Coffin, Mrs. Reed and Mr. Benjamin. The Cisco Cumberland Presbyterian Church joined the Argenta Presbyterian congregation. Perhaps the last services ever held in this church were the funerals of Taylor Coon in 1937 and Lucy Coon in 1939.

About 1942 the building was bought by the Cisco Masonic Lodge No. 965 A.F. & A.M. The son of W. F. Weilepp gave the land to the lodge since it had to be returned to the estate of his father, if no longer used for church purposes. In the late 1940's the school board rented the church basement and carried on a hot lunch program there until the lunch room was built at the school in 1956. The lodge used the building until it was affiliated with the Argenta Masonic Lodge in December 1965.

The Monticello Unit School Board bought the site from the Masons with the understanding that the building was to be removed by the Lodge. The concrete basement floor to the building still remains about two feet under the soil. The site was seeded and added to the school playground.



## *The Cisco United Methodist Church*

The Cisco Methodist Church is the outgrowth of the uniting of two country churches, the Centenary Chapel located three miles southeast of Cisco, and the Pleasant Ridge Church located three miles northwest of the village.

Before the Centenary Chapel was erected in 1865 and '66, services were occasionally conducted by Circuit riding ministers in the homes of Samuel Miles and Felix Watson and in three schoolhouses. After a

revival in the Shady Nook School, the Centenary Chapel was built. This church was called Centenary because it was built in the centenary year of Methodism in America.

The Pleasant Ridge Society was organized in the home of Hiram and Rachel Chandler. Its first public services were held in a new barn 2½ miles south of Cisco on land now owned by Opal Coon. Later that same year Pleasant Ridge schoolhouse was built three miles northwest of Cisco and services were held there. Packs of wolves sometimes surrounded the school during Sunday School. Parents told the children the wolves were attracted by their singing. Later the church was erected near the school. It was at first independent, later Presbyterian and finally Methodist due to the Chandler influence.

Early churches were often grouped into circuits so that one minister could conduct services in several communities. Cisco seems to have been in the Friend's Creek Circuit in 1865 through 1867 and for a time in the Cerro Gordo Circuit. It was in the fall of 1874 that the Cisco Circuit included the Centenary and Pleasant Ridge societies, the Wesley Church southwest of Cisco, the Bell Prairie Church near Argenta, which met in the schoolhouse by the same name, and the church at Deland. The Rev. Joseph Winterbottom was the first pastor on this circuit.

The Centenary and Pleasant Ridge Churches united into the Cisco Methodist Church on Nov. 30, 1874. Sunday School was held in the Hall of the Runkle Building. Samuel Miles was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

In the winter of 1874 and 1875 a subscription was started to build a new church. This church was a one story frame building with five single windows on each side and with a bell tower. The building cost about \$2,200. It was built on the present site of the church and dedicated on July 4, 1875 with Rev. Horace Reed of Decatur making the dedication address. W. T. Beadles was appointed pastor in 1875. A daughter, Bertha, was born in Cisco during his pastorate here.

Exactly one year after the church was dedicated, on July 4, 1876 a windstorm moved the church on its foundation.



Methodist Parsonage on Main Street, 1897. Cecil Stevenson, Enock Austin, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Stevenson.

In 1890 a parsonage was built during the ministry of C. R. Carlos. This building is no longer owned by the church and is presently the residence of Ray Hatfield.

During the 1890's there were three church weddings and they were all held at the close of the regular morning service. This was quite unusual at that time for it was customary for a wedding to occur in the home of the bride.

The church membership grew to 200 by 1898 and a larger building was needed. The church building was sold in 1899 and moved to the north side of Dodge Street where it became the Opera House. Although a new building had been the subject of conservation for many years, it was not until Rev. A. D. Moon came to the circuit in 1898 that a movement was started toward getting a bigger facility. Rev. Moon and his co-workers raised \$6,018. The building committee consisted of L. A. Melvin, F. S. Weilepp, P. B. Maxheimer, Daniel Weddle and E. L. Croninger. These men traveled to Tolono, Ill., to see a new church just completed. They liked the plans made by C. S. Bainum of Champaign and Richard and Landis of Cerro Gordo got the contract to build the church for \$4,965.

M. E. Church, Cisco, Ill.



Second M.E. Church

This second church was erected on the same site as the first one. The corner stone was laid on July 12, 1899 with Rev. W. H. Wilder as presiding elder. Dedication was Dec. 3rd by Bishop C. C. McCabe.

Gifts to the new church included a dozen little red chairs, the corner stone, an office chair, a communion table, and a Bissel Carpet Sweeper.

The second church was much larger and finer than the first church. This one had a basement and to enter the sanctuary one went up either of two sets of steps. There was a separate door at ground level on the north into the basement. One could not get to the basement from inside the church. It was planned this way so when serving a church supper to make money the sanctuary was in no way connected to the room where money was exchanging hands. The building was an L-shaped building with a large bell tower built over the two entry doors. The large church windows were stained glass. There was a hitching rack at the south side of the church yard. A well with a hand pump was located near the northeast corner of the church lot. A gas street light was on the terrace



at the northeast corner. Some of our ladies recall pumping and carrying all the pails of water down the steps for their church suppers.

The church had chicken fries which saw many a chicken being eaten. What large kettles were used and how both the men and women worked. Another way money was earned was by having strawberry festivals when the berries were ripe. There is a record of the Cisco Band playing at one in 1900. Bazaars were another way the church ladies helped to defray church expenses.

During an electrical storm in 1910 the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. There was no fire fighting equipment available at the time. The Presbyterians graciously invited their sister church to use their basement for their Sunday School and to combine the worship services in their sanctuary.

A building committee for a third church was organized. Members of this committee were Rev. J. C. Enninger, Dr. Pattengill, Charles Croninger, Edward Ater, Walter Miller and Fletcher Irwin. The present red brick building's corner stone was laid in the fall of 1910 and the dedication was in June of 1911 with Rev. T. D. Madden officiating.



**Present United Methodist Church**

The present parsonage was built on the southeast corner of North and Eldon streets, across the street from the church in 1920. The land was donated by W. C. (Dick) Reeves.

In 1923-24, Enterprise Church, which was located 5 miles northeast of Cisco closed and brought their membership into the Cisco Church. The Enterprise Church building had been built in 1893-94 on ground given by Hiram Royse. It was a frame building seating 200 people. The church building was abandoned and finally sold to the Farmer City Christian Church in 1933. Until 1923 Cisco and Enterprise had been on a 2 point circuit. Rev. Harold Thrall was the minister when the churches combined.

In 1937 the people were able to afford to redecorate the sanctuary. In 1943 the choir added dignity to the service by wearing choir robes. During 1944 a nursery to care for small children during the worship service was started. Also that year Rev. Nollsch baptised a class of 24 babies, children and adults and several were received into church membership.



**Enterprise Church**

New carpeting and a Wurlitzer organ (as a memorial to Alice Williams) were added in 1948 to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary. This year of 1948 was noted for seven church weddings.

In November of 1949 the church celebrated its 75th anniversary. At that time a booklet was published entitled, *1847-1949 Seventy-fifth Anniversary, First Methodist Church, Cisco, Ill.* A pageant, *The Story of Our Church*, was written and directed by Mrs. Vera M. Root.



**Mrs. Lutie Parr, oldest member of the Cisco Methodist Church during their 75th Anniversary in 1949.**

During 1961-63 the church was refurbished extensively and services were held for a short time in the Grade School auditorium. In 1967 the organ was replaced with a new Baldwin Organ.

At the present time Rev. Charles Fradenburgh has been serving since 1971. In 1973 the church kitchen and the room used by the high school young people has been remodelled and refurnished.

Mr. L. A. Melvin served as Sunday School superintendent for 25 years. Many others served in this capacity with the present one being Stanley Mackey.



Over the years activities of the church have included choirs, Christmas programs, Children's Day programs, Bible school, Christmas sings, Epworth League or M.Y.F., Bible study classes, mother-daughter banquets, and father-son banquets.



Mrs. Root's Methodist Church Junior Choir in 1952. Top: Martha Eubanks, David Whisnant, Jim Geisler, Tom Root, Connie Forcum, Marilyn Benjamin. Second: Norma Remmers, Jim Root, Sue Miller, Loren Hiser, Karen Craig. Third: Joyce Mackey, Sharon Gregory, Mike Melvin, Gerry Conner, Dennis Miller, Judy Zindars, Karen McIntye. Fourth: Janice Miller, Janet Sago, Lucia Coon, Linda Craig, Delores Conner, Beth Johnson.

The following is a list of Pastors who have served this circuit and or church: Joseph Winterbottom 1874, W. T. Beadles 1875-77, Joseph Montgomery 1878, Jacob Kagey 1879, B. Bartholow 1880-81, James Muirhead 1882, A. B. McElfresh 1883, W. H. Swartz 1884-85, E. M. Jeffers, 1886, J. A. Burks 1887, J. C. Collins 1888, C. R. Carlos 1889-90, J. T. Humphrey 1891, W. A. Boyd 1892, D. C. Brickett 1893, W. F. Stevenson 1894-97, A. D. Moon 1898-99, W. D. Best 1900-01, T. S. Mitchell 1902, E. A. Hedges 1903-04, J. E. Strevey 1905, W. D. McIntosh 1906-08, J. C. Enninger 1909-11, D. H. Hartley 1912-14, H. F. Powell 1915-18, Harold L. Thrall 1919-22, Harry A. Cochran 1923-26, Laverne Barclay 1927, O. R. Spreckelmeyer 1928, J. Dewey Muir 1929-30, Donald Gibbs 1931-32, O. L. Clapper 1933-36, H. F. Higgins 1937-38, O. C. Penticoff 1939-40, E. Lowell Dunavin 1941-43, Henry Nollsch 1944, J. F. Long 1945-48, Harold R. Halfyard 1949-51, Lee M. Baldwin 1952-53, Kenneth Winters 1954-59, Ralph Moorhouse 1959-60, Nevin Smith 1961-63, Mac L. Ricketts 1964-65, Vernon L. Saldeen 1965-67, Thomas H. Brown 1968-71, Charles A. Fradenburg, Jr. 1971 to present.



## Ordained Ministers from Cisco

Thomas Miles is probably the first man from this vicinity to enter the Christian ministry. Howard Augustus, Seymour Williams, James Ennis, a Mr. Hedges and Reuben Hathaway are others. Burt McIntosh and Winston Burton were the last ones from Cisco.

## United Methodist Women Woman's Society of Christian Service

### Ladies' Aid Society Woman's Foreign Missionary Society

A Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized with sixteen charter members, by Mrs. A. D. Moon, the pastor's wife on May 24, 1900. Mrs. L. A. Melvin was the first president.

In about the same period, a Ladies' Aid Society was also formed. Elected the first treasurer, Mrs. Melvin served until her death. Later, the Woman's Society of Christian Service was formed by combining the two groups. This action was taken at a joint meeting in August 1940.

The 71 charter members desired to "help to develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to help strengthen the local church; improve civic, community and world conditions; to enlist others in this Christian fellowship and secure funds for the activities in the local church and the work undertaken at home and abroad for the establishment of a world Christian community."

The first officers to direct this organization were: president, Hazel Pirtle; first vice president, Gladys Doane; second vice president, Myrtle Whisnant; third vice president, Elma Waggoner; recording secretary, Nellie Wiseman; corresponding secretary, Edna Benjamin; treasurer, Prudie Huffmaster.

Other secretaries of work were Bertha Coffman, Jennie Miller, Ella Guyot, Othella Remmers, Dorothy Mills and Lutie Parr.

The W.S.C.S. members held quiltings, chicken fries, served for the Red Cross, had food stands at farm sales, and held turkey suppers and bazaars for some of their many fund-raising efforts.

The Reverend O. C. Penticoff was serving the Cisco church when the W.S.C.S. was organized.

In October 1973 the Woman's Society of Christian Service name was changed to the United Methodist Women with the following purpose: The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the Global Ministries of the church.



## Wesleyan Service Guild

The Wesleyan Service Guild of the Cisco Methodist Church was organized in January 1946, for women working outside the home and those with young children who found it difficult to attend afternoon meetings, but who wished to be a part of the W.S.C.S.

The first officers were: president, Juetta Hiser; vice president, Mary Carolyn Chapman; secretary, Edna Whisnant; corresponding secretary, Maxine McKinley; treasurer, Vernetta Miller.

In 1954 the name of this group was changed to the "Ruth Circle", and in 1960 this group merged with the main organization and the Ruth Circle became one of four circles of the afternoon W.S.C.S.



## The Opera House

The Opera House was the remodelled first Methodist church. It was really used as a community building. There was a stage at the north end of the building. Some of the events held here included Road shows, home talent plays, band concerts and the Community Christmas party. Ruby Leach can still sing a song that she sang in a home talent play given by local people in this Opera House.

Some of the Cisco oldtimers recall a hypnotist who gave a program here. He hypnotized a young woman who lay in the window of the Telford Building until night when she was brought to. A man was hypnotized and his rigid body was placed with his head on one chair and his feet on another with a limestone block placed on his chest. Cain Clow, a strong man of the community, broke the block with a sledge without hurting the subject. Still others were hypnotized in comical situations.



## Roads

Stringtown Lane began at the northwest corner of Monticello and extended across the river at Benders Ford, following the section line out of the county to Maroa. It passed Excelsior, New Union and Pleasant Ridge Schools. Some say it was a part of a road extending to Mt. Pulaski. Before there were paved roads, the Old Wabansie Automobile Trail followed Stringtown Lane.

Another old road, though not in complete use today, passed Shady Nook School House and near a brick house (in 1865) belonging to Solomon Ater. Miss Emma Piatt said this was the first brick house built in Piatt county. About one half mile southwest of the brick house, the road crossed a north-south road. In this area, going across Hog Chute Bridge, was the Centenary Methodist Church, Ater Cemetery and a Town Hall building used as a voting place for Willow Branch. Also near here was the tile and brick yard operated by Jim Armsworth in the 1870's and 1880's.

Southwest of here the road branched. One road went by Oak Grove, and on to the county edge — to Dantown and Newburg. The other branch ran through Clover land (just north of Clover Lake) to the section line, and turned west, crossing the present Cisco-Cerro Gordo road and going past the Havelly School.

In February 1898 a news item from the Piatt County Republican says that "It has been years since our roads were in such a muddy condition as they have been in the past two weeks." They had received a large amount of rainfall. Then two weeks later — "Mud prevails everywhere. Ten days ago when the roads were frozen an immense amount of corn was moved, so much in fact that the elevator found difficulty in handling it, but since the moderation in temperature it has been impossible to haul anything." The roads influence the marketing of grain. The days referred to above, found Crocker Elevator Co. buying 35,000 bu. of corn at 24c a bushel that week. Roads were often so bad that wagons and buggies were abandoned.

Willow Branch has had good roads once they won "the battle of the mud." At one time Walter Miller, Charles Doane and Roland Salyers were road commissioners when it took three to take care of the work. They were the commissioners when the grade was first built up to the Sangamon River in 1914.

Clarence "Dutch" Cornell was the first one-man commissioner. After his death, Ace Cornell was commissioner, followed by Jason Ripperdan, Waldo "Rip" Dowdle (17 years.) and Delbert Williams. Rip worked a total of 34 years on Willow Branch roads. Harry "Shine" Shull has helped Rip and Delbert with the road work for many years.

In 1913, Elmer Rainey says the road was so wet north of Cisco he used a four-horse hitch to haul 4 wagon loads of corn a day to the elevator crib south of his present home. He had to scoop the corn off the wagon into the crib. Then in 1914 he helped spread oil — using a four-horse team again. They dragged the roads rather than grading them as they do now, and put just one strip of oil. This was about the first or second year for oil on our roads.

Gypsies were a part of the way of life in the 1800's and early 1900's. One of the places they came to was the Pleasant Ridge School yard. Every summer at least one band would come through the area. They



Building the levee at the Sangamon River.



usually were trading horses, asking for hand outs or offering to tell fortunes. Everyone kept their eye on their children and possessions, because of tales of kidnapping and theft. They were often dressed in gaudy colored ragged clothes. They had dark complexions and they traveled in dilapidated wagons pulled by horses in all states of health. The latest gypsies to come to town, camped southeast of town and came by car, truck, etc.

Tramps came to town and country, causing uncomfortable moments for some. The people usually gave them something to eat, some in fear, others for some service and others just gave them the food.

Many peddlers sold through the area, selling this and that. Those who usually came each year were missed if they did not show up.



W. E. McCartney round barn

## Cisco Elevators

Cisco has had one to three elevators at all times since it began. In the early 1870's an elevator was built on the east side of Main Street and north of the railroad racks. A second elevator was built by Mr. Crocker on the west side of Main Street across from the first one in the 1880's. A third one was constructed by Suffern and Hunt at the west edge of town, south of the railroad tracks.

E. F. Dallas was a grain merchant in the late 1870's. A grain receipt that has no name of the elevator as a heading and dated September 8th, 1879 shows that the weigher, H. T. Morrison paid to Joseph Parr 18c a bushel for 3/100 bushels of white oats weighed on a Fairbanks Standard Scales at Cisco, Illinois.

## Shellabarger Elevators

An elevator was built on the west side of Main Street in the 1880's by a Mr. Crocker. Percy Jones was associated with this elevator. In the Piatt County Republican, February 10, 1898, it was stated, "The Crocker Elevator Company bought 35,000 bushel of corn at 24c/bu. last week." Later another elevator was built on this site by the Shellabarger Elevator Company. During the earlier years of this elevator, Bud Weddle, an employee, met a tragic death when his clothing caught in a swiftly turning shaft. Scott

Armstrong managed it until he became the manager of the Cisco Farmers' Elevator. Stephen Mintun succeeded him, followed by William Kile, Reed Barnhart, and W. E. Miller. In the late twenties the Evans Elevator Co. bought Shellabarger elevator. Walter Miller was a manager, followed by Albert (Tom) Leach. In 1930 the elevator burned and Tom was transferred to Oreana by Evans.

## Suffern and Hunt Elevator

In the early 1900's Suffern and Hunt erected an elevator at the west edge of town just south of the railroad tracks. The first manager was a Mr. Malone. The A and O Grain Company used it for grain storage and sold it to the Cisco Co-op in 1954.

About 1882 F. S. Weillepp came from Forsyth and bought grain for Day Sons and Company. In 1886, John Frantz, who came to Willow Branch Township five years earlier, became a Cisco lumber, coal, and grain dealer. In 1889 his son, Charles O. Frantz, went into partnership with his father.

In 1889 F. S. Weillepp bought the interest of Day Sons and Company in connection with Mahlon Croninger. Mr. Weillepp was regarded as one of the outstanding grain dealers in this part of the country. Mr. Weillepp was a stockholder in the Croninger Bank. He built the house on the northwest corner of Dodge and Eldon Streets and it was considered one of the finest homes of the time.

The F. S. Weillepp Grain Company sold out to the Farmers' Elevator Company in 1908. At that time the officers were: L. A. Melvin, president; E. E. Dallas, secretary; C. L. Croninger, Edward Ater, W. E. McCartney, Edward Reeser, and C. T. Parr. The Farmers' Elevator leased the Suffern and Hunt Elevator in 1910 at \$50 a month in order to provide more handling and storage room. In 1912 they purchased the coal business from Cisco Lumber Company. This firm re-organized in December 1918 to become Cisco Co-operative Grain Company.

The first manager of the Farmers' Elevator was J. T. Holderman. He was succeeded by W. S. (Scott) Armstrong in 1909. who served until 1930. Earl Steele was manager from 1930 until 1943. The Company bought the Home Oil Company in 1940 and Sangamon Oil Company, both from W. S. (Scott) Armstrong. In 1950 the company became jobbers for Marathon Petroleum Products. Truck drivers for this operation were H. G. (Pete) Benjamin who served until 1944 when Eldon Webb took over until 1973 when Greg Nolan became the driver.

There was a demand for more storage so the board of directors erected a 22,000 bushel tank in 1940. A new brick office for the elevator was built in 1941 at the east end of Dodge Street, facing Main Street. The board of directors at that time were C. T. Parr, president, J. H. Barnhart, secretary, Charles Olson, J. W. McCollister, and P. C. Young.

Three more storage tanks were built in 1950 and two more in 1954, making a total capacity of 185,000 bushels. That same year, 1954, the company bought the elevator on the west side of town from A and O Grain Company. This elevator and its contents were

destroyed by fire on the night of September 8, 1954. Luckily there was no loss sustained as it was completely covered by insurance. In 1955 the company became a representative of the A. E. Staley Company by adding commercial feeds to their line of products.

A new elevator was constructed on the west side of Main Street in 1956. A steel Butler flat storage warehouse was built in 1957. It was 60 feet wide, 120 feet long with 20 foot side walls. A new concrete elevator of 250,000 bushel capacity replaced the original frame building in 1964. A tract of land was purchased from R. H. Oplinger at the east edge of town and two large storage warehouses were built on it. In 1965 the government bins on this land were bought which gave the company a total storage of 1,150,000 bushels.

The years 1950 to 1965 embrace the major expansion in storage. The directors holding office during these fifteen years were Loren Pattengill, Lawrence Coon, Ralph Rannebarger, Warren Ater, Bert Huisinga, Frances Edwards, Donald Whisnant and Gerald Miller. In 1958 the elevator celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a dinner for all stockholders and wives at Potrafka's Cedar Knolls in Oreana.

The Argenta elevator was bought September 15, 1972. This gave the Cisco Co-operative Grain Company an additional 100,000 bushel capacity. The company sells small seeds such as beans, clover, and corn. They also mix and dry seeds at the Argenta facility. They continue to handle Marathon Products.

The Board of Directors in 1974 are Dale Huisinga, president, D. James Burns, secretary, Keith Westerman, Don Padgett, Melvin Gulley, and Gerald Hiser.

Managers for the Cisco Co-operative Grain Company are as follows: W. S. Armsworth 1909-1930, Earl J. Steele 1930-1943, Walter Fisher 1943 to August 1944, John Witlow 1944 to summer 1962, Merle Chapman 1962-1967, Grant Appell 1967-1971, William (Bill) Sago 1971-

The bookkeeper from 1926-67 was Hildred Webb who still helps out. Kay Drew became bookkeeper in 1967 and has been office manager since 1971. Part time personnel are Joyce Bennett and Mikki Burns. Every year a dinner is held at the annual meeting for the stockholders.



## *The Stockyards and The Cisco Shipping Association*

Early settlers devoted much time and attention to cattle and hog raising, so with the coming of the railroad, stockyards were developed. The stockyards were east of Main Street beside the railroad. In the April 25, 1905 Cisco Press a news item reads, "Fourteen cars of stock were shipped from here Sunday. J. N. Dighton had 5 cars of hogs and 1 of cattle; James Hendrix had 5 cars of cattle and 1 of hogs and Mack Ashton had 1 car of cattle and 1 of hogs. An extra train was sent from Champaign to get the stock."

In W. S. Armsworth's annual report in 1921 he states that since August 1, 1920 he has shipped out 16 cars of livestock. This is a total of 111 hogs, 59 cattle and 29 sheep. He paid farmers consigning this stock \$25,500. The average cost of shipping was 63c per cwt.

## *Blacksmiths*

On the southeast corner of Main and South Streets, a buggy builder had a shop in the early days of Cisco.

Mr. John Jeffords had a harness making business on the balcony of the Opera House. It too, was destroyed by the fire of 1910. Other harness makers were Mr. Bigalow, and Mr. Ralph Allman.

On the east side of Main Street there was a blacksmith shop until in the 1940's. Cisco's first blacksmith, James Glick had his shop on the south side of town. Later Neal Caldwell, brother to Dr. Caldwell of Syrup of Pepsin fame, was in with Mr. Glick. In the 1890's Dan Cripe had his shop followed by James Sullivan and then George Hitchins. The last blacksmiths to use this shop were James and Wilmer Clifton who lost it in a fire in the 1940's.

There was another blacksmith shop in the village in the 1890's besides Dan Cripe's. In the second block east of the bank, L. A. (Tebe) Weddle ran a blacksmith shop for many years.

Around 1910 Jason Vaught had a smithy in the south room of the Swam Building. Mr. Vaught was expert at shoeing race horses and he did a good business for there were race tracks in both Monticello and Decatur. Outside of the south wall there were originally rings for tying up horses while awaiting service.

Cisco blacksmiths did a fine business about the turn of the century because the means of transportation used then was the horse and buggy. At that time the farm machinery was pulled by horses. In the winter when the roads were rough the farmers needed well shod teams so they would bring them to town. Sometimes business was so brisk that one had to wait for his turn a half day.

One hundred seventy-five feet of hitchrack was erected, west of Main Street, in the north part of town in 1902. This was greatly needed because the racks to the south did not nearly supply the demand on "busy days".

A village watering trough was located on the south side of Dodge Street and across from the Cisco Press Office. Water was pumped for this tank by a windmill located south of the railroad tracks on Eldon Street. (In 1974 the windmill would have been just north of Larry Edward's home.) At the turn of the century when most Cisco residents had had horses and buggies for transportation, and some even had cows, they took their animals to the village tank to water them. Young boys often earned a little money by hiring out to widows or others to perform this chore.

As a small boy David Swarts recalls that his grandfather led the cow and David led the calf to the watering trough daily and that he had a special fondness for his calf. One day the butcher, Shively, bargained with the grandfather to sell him the calf. David felt very sorry to lose it. Sometime later Mr. Shively offered some weiners as a treat to David but the boy refused them for he was sure they were made from his calf.

In later years the trough was filled by the town pump located at Dodge and Main Streets.



Livery, Sale Barn, and view of the town.

### *Livery Stable*

A livery stable was located to the west of and behind the Runkle Building on South Railroad Street. Two services were offered. The "Tie In" service tied your horse inside the building leaving it hitched to the buggy. The "Feed" service included unhitching your horse, putting it in a stall and feeding it at noon. Owners of the stable included William Mintun and John Luker, who was the last one. The stable burned in the 1920's and was never rebuilt as by this time the car was replacing the horse.



### *Boarding Houses and The Hotel*

Mrs. Patsy Reardon, mother-in-law to John Jeffords, the harness maker boarded some of the men putting in the railroad in 1873. About 1897 Mrs. Peter Stuckey, who lived on the southeast corner of North and Main Streets, ran a boarding house.

A hotel was built at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and Ellis Streets, possibly by Samuel Nogel since he was the first to operate it. Mrs. Patrick Hassett ran it next while her husband was a section foreman. In 1887 Edward Clow operated it until he sold to Colonel and Mrs. Ayers. They were in operation before 1899. When four of their patrons, including Ernest Croninger and Dr. Pattengill, went to board with Mrs. Peter Stuckey it made quite a decrease in the income of the hotel and they sold out to

Mrs. Sarah Higgins who was the last to run a Cisco Hotel. Carpenters stayed there while they were rebuilding the Shellabarger elevator.

When Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Briggs bought the hotel they ran it as a restaurant for twenty-five years. After the death of her husband Perry, Mrs. Briggs ran it several more years then sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Stiltman. The last owners were Mr. and Mrs. Leischner who ran it a short time and went out of business in 1972 and have been using it as a residence since then.



### *M. Croninger Bank*

The bank building was built in 1897 by Mahlon Croninger. F. S. Weilepp was a principal stockholder as were C. L. Croninger, Nellie Pattengill, William Dighton and H. L. Timmons. Ernest Croninger was cashier until his health broke, then he looked after his father's farming interests and his brother Charles succeeded him at the bank. In 1911 the bank was organized as a state bank called "Croninger State Bank of Cisco." In 1914 C. L. Croninger retired from the bank presidency and E. O. Martin of Weldon filled the vacancy; Charles Doane, vice-president and Bernard Pattengale, asst. cashier. In 1917 capital stock was \$50,000; deposits \$175,000; loans \$200,000. In 1911 Bruce Rinehart became cashier until 1916 when he returned to a Deland bank where he had been previous to coming to Cisco. Thomas Hardin became a cashier





Croninger Bank

then. After Martin ran the bank for a few years, John Reed became cashier. Some of the bank directors were E. V. Rannebarger, Mack Ashton, E. A. Ater and Charles Parr. Others associated with the bank over the years were Jon Rank, Herbert Ridgely, Ira McCartney and Mrs. Hildred Webb.

Sometime in the 1920's there was an attempted bank robbery. The bank was running low on cash and ordered a shipment to be sent out from Decatur on the evening train. However, the shipment went on to Champaign. Since the money was not delivered, the Cisco bank ordered another shipment the next day and both shipments arrived the same day in Cisco.

Behind the bank was the telephone office building, which in those days required a local operator. Simon Gisinger served as night operator. Mr. Gisinger's son Ancil, better known as "Pop," tells the following story of that night.

Ancil lived next door to his father Simon. Late in the night Ancil's wife was awakened by a bang. She roused her husband who had not heard the noise. Shortly he heard a bang too, went to the window and looked toward town but could see nothing. There was a third bang. So he dressed, grabbed a dash-board lantern and went next door to see if his mother had been disturbed. When he got on her front porch he realized she had not heard it, so he decided to see if his dad was alright. When he got to Dr. Pattengill's corner he saw four or five men. He saw Dewey and Perry Briggs fire a gun up in the air. The streets were torn up at this time because drainage tile were being put in. He saw Dunkel, the barber, standing in the doorway to the barber shop. When the men saw Ancil start across the street they called to him that they feared a robbery. Thinking only of his father, he kept on going. He could see the glass in the windows of the bank had been blown out. The explosion had awakened Simon who had been sleeping in the bedroom which was on the north side of the telephone office. He had hurried to the window toward the bank and had stubbed his toe on the swivel chair used by the switch board operator. A voice called in to him to get back to bed and stay quiet or they would shoot him. When Ancil arrived, he found his father in bed and scared to death. When he tried to call the sheriff his hands shook so

that his son had to do it. It was about 4:00 A.M. by this time. The robbers had not been successful in blowing the safe open as there was a time lock on the bottom of the door. It was pried open the next morning with crowbars and each pry brought a pop from the nitroglycerine and smoke. The robbers had tried to blow the bank's vault door open with nitroglycerine.

The robbers made their getaway by stealing Will Jefford's Buick from the garage. This car didn't run far so they stole an Essex belonging to Mayor Bud Kistler. It was found abandoned in Champaign.

No one was ever convicted of the attempt to rob the bank or steal the cars. Simon Gisinger thought he recognized the voice that ordered him to stay quiet but he never revealed a name to anyone. Years later a man caught on another charge claimed that Singer Sewing machine salesmen were in on it. Ancil says he believes there were at least four men in the attempt.

The bank closed in 1927 and did not reopen.

## ✦✦✦ *Lights*

An electric light plant was installed by Mr. Swam in the north room of his building and it gave Cisco its first electric lights in 1915. The plant consisted of wet batteries that were charged by a two-cylinder engine. This engine was built by the International Harvester Company and ran on coal oil (kerosene). Mr. Swam went broke when he could not pay for his electric plant and Frank Coffman bought him out.

Ancil Gisinger recalls that it was a German engineer who taught him how to operate the electric plant. At the time his plant could supply all the needs for there were few electrical fixtures that required more than one bulb. Most rooms were lighted by a single bulb at the end of a long cord suspended from the ceiling. At the time Simon Gisinger ran the plant the engine was started at dusk and ran until 11:00 P.M. The wet batteries would produce enough current for overnight.

When homes began using electric washing machines and electric irons the power plant was run on Monday and Tuesday mornings. When Scott Armsworth sold the plant to the Illinois Power Company in 1927 they brought in electricity by high line from Cerro Gordo.

## ✦✦✦ *Telephone Exchange*

On July 23, 1897 the telephone opened in Cisco. By January 1898 the telephone rage had struck Cisco. Some half dozen phones had been put in by private individuals between their places of business and residence. Then as now weather could cause a disruption of service. In a January 13, 1898 Piatt County Republican it notes that "Telephone lines between Decatur and this point are down."

A telephone system was installed in Cisco in 1900. An exchange building was erected to the east of the bank building. W. H. Jones had the first telephone installed. Switchboard operators were Pearl Weddle and Belle Mintun. Other operators were Audra and Edith Weddle, Grace Gisinger, Kathryn Widick, Ber-



nice Clow, Hazel Pirtle, Ruby Leach, Wanda Guyot, and Ruth Leach. Pay for operators in 1928 was 9c an hour and it was raised to about 12½c about 1932.

James Duddleson was the first manager, followed by Simon Gisinger who, also, acted as night operator. Ed Brown was the next manager. The system was sold in 1925 to L. J. Wylie of the Macon County Telephone Company of Decatur. It was later sold to the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company who in turn sold it to the General Telephone Company of Illinois. Dottie Giesler began working at the telephone office in 1922 and continued to work there until dial phones were installed in 1954. Long distance dialing began in 1964. Since 1954 there has been no need for a telephone office and the building has been torn down.



## Water System

About 1919-20 a large storm sewer was laid in from the south side of town branching to the east and west. These were then directed north. The west branch turned back east a little north of the Methodist Church to go back to Main Street and north. Though we still have water this was a great improvement.

In 1950 a contract was let to W. L. Hall for the waterworks system and the construction was done in 1950-51. Before that water had been from private wells and cisterns, or the town well.



## The Cisco Press

The building on Dodge Street just west of the restaurant was a room with a barber chair in the front and the press for the "Cisco Press" toward the back. This was a weekly newspaper started by W. W. Austin about 1902. The subscription rate was \$1.00 per year. Some interesting things about the town can be learned from the paper. Copied from an April 28, 1905 paper are the following items:

A full line of curry combs and brushes at J. Jeffords. John Dighton, Jr., and Ed Moffitt of Monticello were here Sunday shipping cattle and hogs for Mr. Dighton.

For Sale: Well equipped blacksmith shop in thriving Illinois town. Is a money maker and will stand investigation. Price is right. Address, "Blacksmith" in care of PRESS, Cisco, Ill.

Bring your harness to Jefford's and have it repaired, greased, and have it put in shape for the season's work.

For Sale: Several residence properties. Also livery barn for sale or rent. Please call and get terms.

The copy of the CISCO PRESS from which the above was taken belongs to Jess Lyons who graciously loaned it to us.



## The Cisco Index

An even earlier paper was printed in 1902. It consisted of four pages, was published on the 15th of each month and a subscription was 25c a year. Its motto was "Published in the Interest of Cisco and Its People". The publisher was W. H. Jones. The copy reviewed here is for April 15, 1902.

It gave the scheduled services for the Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and the lodge meetings as listed under the discussion of the Telford Building.

Under a section called "Some Happenings" some of the people mentioned are William Marlowe, J. H. Reeves, Frank Donovan, Mrs. F. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. S. Hinson, R. E. Staats, P. B. Maxheimer, Mrs. Best, Norah and Pearl Parish. Other items under the same heading are:

Simon Gisinger has been having his restaurant repaired.

Saturday is a school election. The ladies have a vote.

A big assortment of bulk garden seeds at W. H. Jones & Co.

F. M. Arnold was in Normal part of the week buying nursery stock.

Aaron Goodale has moved his barber shop into the vacant Russel building.

The I.O.O.F. are painting and papering the inside of their store building.

James Mintun has begun the erection of a four room dwelling for L. A. Weddle.

L. E. Stuckey has purchased the lots just north of the school building of S. Hinson and will erect a nice two story residence in the near future. (This is where Harry Lyons lives in 1974).

The copy of "The Cisco Index" from which this was taken belongs to Lucia Wilkin. It did belong to her aunt Mabel Lyons.

"The Cisco Review" was run by Hanson Andrews.



## Hardware Stores

Walker and Carter were the first hardware dealers in Cisco. E. W. Rinehart was an early hardware dealer but where the business located seems to be unknown at this time, but it might have been in the two story part of the Jones Building. The following is a copy concerning him found in *DeWitt and Piatt County, Illinois* published in "DeWitt and Piatt County, Ill."

"E. W. Rinehart commands the best trade in Cisco, Piatt County, in the line of goods in which he deals. He handles hardware, queensware, and furniture, and his sales average



Armsworth Hardware Store

\$10,000 to \$12,000 per annum. He carries stock worth about \$3,000 and occupies a building 40' by 50' in dimensions, favorably located and tastefully arranged. Mr. Rinehart began business in 1880 at his present stand, which has become widely known as a place in which goods can be obtained and courteous and honorable treatment always received. He came to Cisco from Iowa. He was born December 3, 1858 in Ross County, Ohio.

Bill Jeffords, son of the harness maker, John Jeffords, had a hardware store on the north side of Dodge Street and immediately west of the Hitchins Building. However, there was a vacant lot between the two buildings. Bill had his wares to the front of the building and his father had his harness making to the back of the building. It is believed that it was the Jeffords who rebuilt this building after the fire. Russell Pheneas managed a hardware store here called "Cisco Mercantile Co." for the Midland Lumber Company from 1928-1931. For a time Albert Miller ran such a store. The Parish Brothers had a hardware business for a time in the south room of the Runkle's Building.

About 1942 Scott Armsworth started a hardware store here. He passed away in 1943 and his son Bill was in the service at that time, so Bill's wife, Betty and Bill's mother, Effie Armsworth ran the business until Bill returned in 1946. He ran it as a hardware store for years and later added electrical appliances. He was a good business man and did a good business here but moved it to Monticello in 1965.

A number of people ran johnny hacks or drays at Cisco — Preston Reed, Harry "Mad" Walker, George Scoles, Bur Rinehart, Elwin Eubanks, Lee McGinnis, John Gosset and John School.



Helen Dowdle, "Jap" Phillips and "Shine" Shull with the Implement Co. in 1939.



Cisco Implement Company: Wilmer C. Clifton, Harry Shull, Pauline Wangler, Keith Forcum (mgr.), Basil Wattles, Dale Wolfe, Jack Clifton.

## The Implement Business

In the 1890's A. H. (Bert) Lyons and Charley Lyons had an implement business in a building that stood on the southwest corner of Main and North Streets. In 1899 the Parish Brothers Implement Store was on the west side of south Main Street south of the Runkle's Building. They advertised as selling wagons, buggies, hardware, tinware, stoves, wind mills, pumps and oil. After several years they migrated to Idaho along with several other families from Cisco.

W. H. Jones sold all kinds of agricultural implements at his store on the east side of Main Street. He sold out to Fred McIntosh, who was bought out by Orville Ennis and James Heath. In a few years this partnership dissolved, Jim Heath going to Monticello, and Orville Ennis moving to Canada.

In the late 1920's Walter Miller, Albert Miller, Scott Armsworth and Charlie Olson started a hardware and implement store on the north side of Dodge Street, where the Fire Department and American Legion are now. Later this store was purchased by the Midland Co. and managed by Russel Pheneas. It was sold to Howard Clodfelter and managed by Keith Forcum. Lloyd Jones purchased the business, but never operated it. He sold it to Don Ater and Harold McIntyre. After a few years they sold out to Lyle McPheeters, who sold International farm equipment. Then he moved his business to his new store at Monticello.



## Restaurants and Ice Cream Parlors

West of the Opera House there was a restaurant and ice cream parlor about 1900, run by Phillip Gisinger. He sold homemade ice cream that he made in five gallon freezers cranked by hand. Later Mrs. Braden and her son-in-law, Mr. Wycoff, had a restaurant here. They bought their ice cream in large freezers. Some recall the ice cream parlor furniture with the twisted metal legs.

According to an advertisement in the 1902 newspaper, *The Cisco Press*, Bert Rankin ran a "Restaurant and Confectionary." (This is the way confectionery was spelled in all advertisements). His advertisement read, "I carry a complete line of good fresh candy. HOT LUNCH AT ALL HOURS. Decatur Ice Cream made by Morris Candy Co., also first-class Candies. I also have a Barber Chair in connection

with my restaurant. Yours for a share of your trade. Bert Rankin, Cisco, Illinois."

Another restaurant location was in the north room of the building recently occupied by McKinley's Store. Tom W. Creekmur had "The Depot Restaurant" in the Runkel Building in 1902 and he advertised in *The Cisco Press* as follows: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. We are prepared to wait on our customers in the best of style. We have placed in some nice clean stock of Candies and Cigars. We are also prepared to serve Ice Cream in many ways. Our Soda Fountain is in good shape. Give us a call. DEPOT RESTAURANT. T. W. Creekmur, Mgr., Cisco, Illinois."

Clarence Cornell operated a restaurant in this same location. So did Phillip Gisinger, Frank Lyons, Cy Dare, and in 1929-30 Herman and Jennie Rose had such a business.

Henry Burkler had another restaurant located a door north of the bank, in the building that is a barber shop in 1974.

## Drug Stores

Mr. J. E. Hamilton was the first druggist. Jesse Miles was a druggist for several years. A wooden building south of the hotel was John Shaff's Drug Store with Dr. Pattengill's office in rooms at the back of the store. When John Shaff left to go to medical school his brother Fred took over the drug store. When the new big brick building across the street was completed, Fred moved into the middle room. Aileen Rannebarger recalls a very fine marble soda fountain in this store. Fred Shaff died in 1942. His was Cisco's last drug store. Some drug items were carried in both the Weddle and Don McKinley general stores.



On South Main Street

## Stores

In 1885, Theodore Ivens started a business with a stock of \$3,000 of general merchandise. His two brothers, Ira and Aaron, were associated with him — also a Mr. Wilhoit. In a few years their stock had increased to between \$7,000 and \$8,000 in value. They sold dry goods, carpet, groceries, boots, shoes, etc. They did an excellent business and had a reputation for financial integrity. Their trade amounted to from \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually.

Some of the other store keepers were Mr. Slate, Wash Havelly, A. W. Scott, Ed Coffman, Dan Weddle, Weddie & Ed Stuckey, E. E. Dallas, Mart Osborn, Harvey Robbins, Mr. Loveless, Loton Williams, G. W. Hitchens and son Clarence. After this followed Wayne Coon, Elmer Dallas, Barnhart & Leach, then briefly Frank Lyons.

Mrs. Aileen Rannebarger recalls that at the opening of the G. W. Hitchens store souvenirs were given away. Each person was presented with a two-inch square box that contained a Beich's chocolate candy. She was also impressed with the spaciousness of the store. At one time Elmer Dallas gave away numbered tickets with purchases during the week; then on Saturday night a lucky number would be drawn and the person holding a ticket with that number received some dishes.

In 1928 Sam Clover had a grocery store in the empty bank building. His wife ran the Post Office there at the same time. E. Lee "Skinny" McGinnis ran a grocery in the south side of the Swan building. Wilmer Clifton worked for him. They made grocery deliveries in a Model T Ford. In the south part of town Bill Wheeler had a grocery store. Some recall that a child could buy the most candy for a penny at this store and that he sold brown sugar (which was a rarity at that time).

Peter Stuckey, father to George and Ed Stuckey, had a meat market in Cisco's early days in the room farthest north in the Telford Building. He was followed in the same location by a Mr. Russell. Mr. Shively had his meat market for a time in a small building south of the re-built Runkel building, in a room which one entered from a door on South Railroad Street. Mr. Stillabower also had a meat market in a small building west of Main Street on the north side of South Street. Later on meats were sold in the general stores.



E. E. Dallas store in the corner of Dodge and Main.

## Shoe Repairman

About 1900 Joe Miller had a shoe repair shop in his home on Main Street. Mr. Bigelow, father-in-law to Dr. Capps, had a shoe repair shop in the north end of the Jones Building. Ralph Allman was about the last shoe repairman or cobbler in Cisco.



## Fire Department

Reporting a fire in the early 1920's was a matter of calling the local operator at the telephone office. She would then open the window and ring a bell that was attached to a pole outside the window. This alerted all the town people. Persons in the country were alerted by a continuous ring of the phones along the lines. If the fire was at night the operator would call each home where there was a young man able to fight the fire.

While someone went to the telephone office to learn the location of the fire, others were busy getting the chemical wagon out of the Cisco garage. The chemical was a long tank set on a single axle. At the front of the tank were two long bars which ended in a T shape. This enabled two men to hold onto it and pull the wagon while other men pushed. On top of the tank was a fire basket that held buckets for the men to use. There was also a bottle which held the chemicals of acid and soda attached to the tank.

If the fire was in town the wagon was usually pulled by hand to the fire, but if it was in the country, men would hold onto the handle and crawl onto the back of a car or truck and pull the wagon to the fire. The vehicle was limited to a speed of 10 to 15 miles per hour because of the swaying of the tank. Later the tank was put onto a two axle cart which helped in transporting it.

When they arrived at the fire a bottle of acid and soda was broken and poured into the tankful of water. The chemical reaction caused pressure to build in the tank. When the gauge indicated that the pressure was high enough the hoses were used.

Because of the slow speed the chemical wagon was forced to travel, many fires were beyond control before the firemen arrived.



John Whitlow, Dewey Briggs, Loren Pattengill, Eugene Conner, and Harold McKinney.

In 1947 the Cisco Volunteer Fire Department was formed with its main object to be to protect the Cisco Fire District against losses by fire. Three trustees were named to govern the business of the district. They were Loren Pattengill, J. D. Briggs, and Harold McKinney.

Several men were the first members of the department. Monthly meetings were held to give instructions on fire fighting and how to use the fire equipment. William Armsworth was selected as the first fire chief. In June of 1947 a new fire truck was purchased. A group of men made the trip to Saginaw, Michigan and drove the truck to Cisco. It was an International KBC Chassis with a pump, tank, hoses, and other accessories. This first truck and other equipment were housed in the Town Hall.

In April of 1950 an auxiliary pump was mounted on the rear of the Fire Truck to pump water from a pond or cistern into the truck. It also would pump water out of the truck which made it a more versatile unit of this piece of equipment.

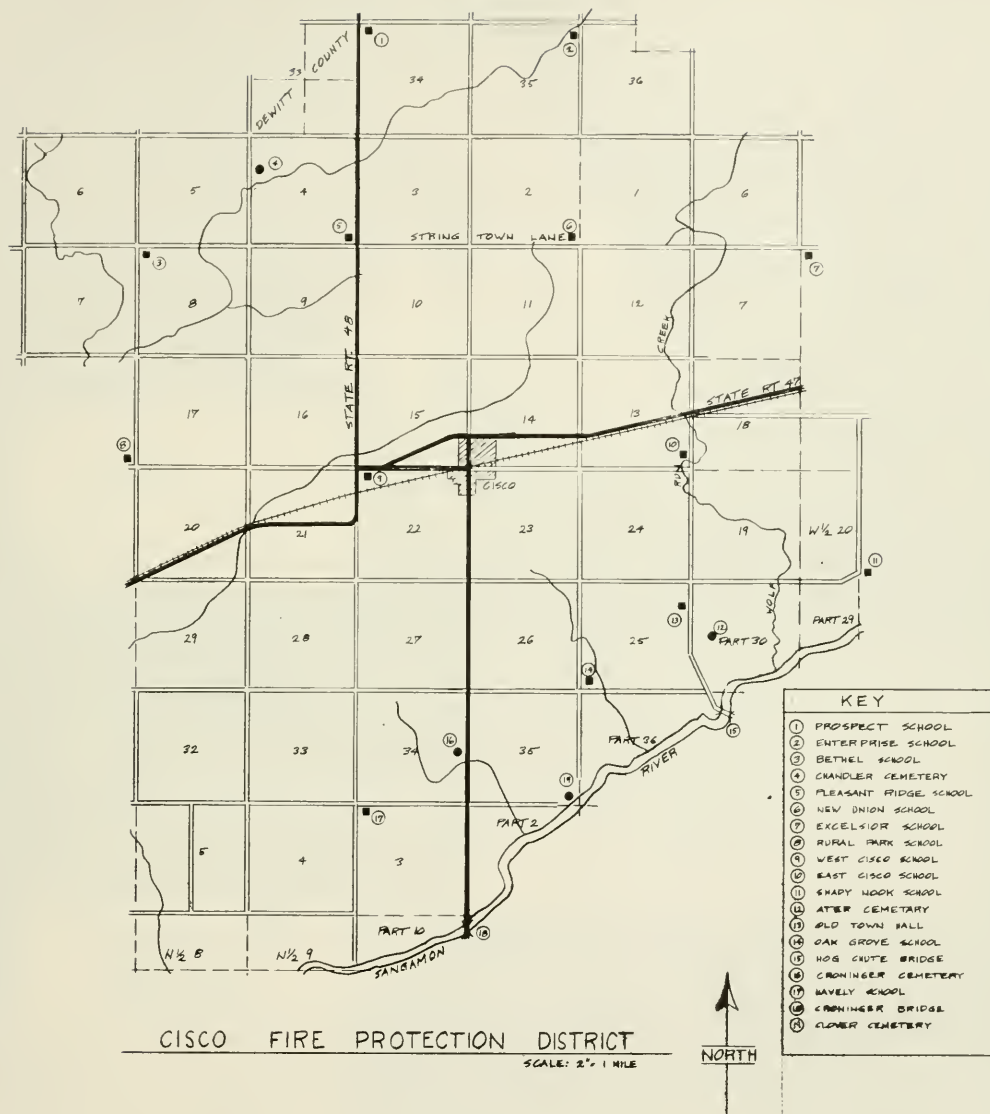
As the Fire District grew in resources and equipment, a larger place was needed to house the department's equipment. In February of 1954, the west part of the building, belonging to the McFeeters Imp. Co. was purchased and reconditioned to serve the department as the Fire House.

Other trustees were A. B. Weddle, Eugene Conner, Thomas Edwards, Roger Briggs, Ron Reeves and Jack Drew.

By 1957 the Fire Department needed another Fire Truck to supplement the one they had, so in 1957 an International 190 was purchased. It was equipped with a front mounted pump and this allowed the truck to move at the same time it was pumping water. They were continually acquiring new equipment which was needed at the fires and it was transported in a van purchased in 1960. This van was nicknamed the "disaster wagon" and to some it was a disaster to try to drive it. In 1966 a 1000 gallon tank truck (a 600 Ford chassis) was purchased to help supply water to the pumper trucks when they were at a fire and the water supply was short. It also is equipped with an auxiliary pump and could serve as a pumper in an emergency situation.

In 1970 the "disaster wagon" was replaced by a 1970 Ford Van. It was equipped with a siren, flashing lights, and a loud speaker to use to give instructions at a fire. A resuscitator was purchased by this time, to be used to help supply oxygen to people overcome by smoke, a person who is strangling or a heart attack victim and has been used several times.

The firemen have contributed to other community activities, helping support the Boy Scouts, and helping to finance a high school boy from the Cisco community to attend Boys State several times. A meeting is held once each month for instruction of how to use the equipment and for keeping the fire equipment in good working order.



Fire district, schools, cemeteries and land mark map.







## Doctors

Before the town of Cisco existed there were doctors in this vicinity. In the 1850's a Dr. Foster lived three miles southwest of the Cisco site in Macon County, and a Dr. Gueran lived at Newburg, a defunct town near Argenta. During the Civil War a Dr. Burdick, who lived north and east of Cisco, and a Dr. Darling who lived north and west, served here. The latter was musical and had a singing school in an old school house. Dr. J. W. Porter came some time later and was here until 1865. Dr. S. V. Purdy built a small dwelling on the Cisco site in 1871. In the "Piatt County Conservative" of April 19, 1871 he announced his arrival as follows: "Dr. S. V. Purdy, Eclectic physician of Willow Branch Township, having located in the above territory for the practice of medicine, I would respectfully offer my services to the afflicted of the surrounding territory. Special attention given to chronic diseases and mid-wifery." A note in the diary kept by I. McCollister, father of J. W. McCollister, tells us how those early doctors were paid partly in commodities and partly in money for the entry says, "July, 1871, Dr. S. V. Purdy to I. McCollister debtor cash \$17.60; oats six sheaths and about two and a half bushels of corn." The doctor died very suddenly about 1874, the year Cisco was platted, leaving a wife and two daughters.

Dr. Leo J. Weinstein came from Ohio to the new town of Cisco in 1874 and was associated with J. B. Hamilton, the druggist. He left here in 1878 and went to Indiana where he practiced until his death in 1909 at age 61.

Dr. William B. Caldwell studied in Ohio, Iowa and Rush Medical College in Chicago before coming to Cisco in 1875. He stayed until 1885 when he moved to Monticello where he had a drug store with his office above it located on the northwest corner of the square. It was there in 1893 he, Allen F. Moore and John Hott formed a company and made and sold Dr. Caldwell's Syrup of Pepsin. Later the company became a subsidiary of the Sterling Drug Company. When he was sixty-seven years old in 1906, Dr. Caldwell developed gangrene in a foot which had to be amputated above the knee. He recovered nicely, secured an artificial limb but he never learned to walk again. His last years were spent in a wheel chair. He passed away September 22, 1922 at the age of eighty-three.

The only doctor who spent all of his professional life in Cisco was Dr. Leslie T. Pease. He spent thirty-two years in medicine, all of them in Cisco. He was born in Sangamon County, Illinois and graduated from Keokuk Medical School in 1878. He had a rough time when he first came to Cisco as Dr. Caldwell was well established in the community. He was a good country doctor but never cared to mingle with other doctors and seldom ever attended county medical meetings. In the early 1870's he married Mary Halstead of Decatur. They had nine children, two died in infancy. A son, Rollin B. Pease, began taking photographs in Cisco and later moved to Decatur where he established the Rembrandt Studio. He married a Cisco girl, Mary Niestraht in the early 70's. The doctor's wife died in 1905. Dr. Pease remarried in June, 1906, making Hester Burns his second wife. Doctor Pease died sud-

denly in 1910 at age fifty-seven and is buried in Croninger Cemetery.

Dr. B. C. Graves came to Cisco in 1885 after graduating two years earlier from Missouri Medical School. He also practiced in Macon, Dalton City and Argenta. He passed away in Argenta in 1919.

Dr. Ira Pace came to Cisco in 1891 after graduating at Burlington, Vermont. He stayed only two years. Dr. Holcomb came the same year from Indiana but soon left because there was too much competition.

Dr. Morrell Pattengill graduated from Rush Medical College in 1895, served as an intern for one year at Jacksonsville, came to Cisco to practice in 1896. Before entering medical school he taught school two years in Illinois, and two years in Ohio.

A professional card of his appears in the souvenir programme of the second church the Methodists built. It says, "Dr. M. Pattengill, Physician & Surgeon, Cisco, Illinois." The same one appears in the "Cisco Press."

The doctor began to taper off his practice when his wife Nellie, became ill. He finally devoted all his time to her until her death. Dr. Pattengill continued to live in Cisco and always retained his interest in medicine.

Dr. Jessie Taylor McDavid came to Cisco in 1907 and lived where McCabe's live. He graduated from Illinois State Normal University at Normal, Illinois in 1900, from Barnes in 1904, married Olga E. Keck of Decatur in 1908. He moved to Decatur in 1909 because of the bad roads in this vicinity. He served his country in World War I leaving the service with the rank of Major in the Medical Corps. After the war he returned to Decatur where he continued to practice as a surgeon.

Dr. P. G. Capps was in this community for two years from 1910 to 1912. He was a graduate from Barnes Medical School in 1908. When he left here he served in the Medical Corps in the Canal Zone.

Dr. Robert N. Hathway worked on a farm in this locality before he went into medical training at Drake Medical College from which he graduated in 1909. He came to Cisco in 1910, married Antonia Grethe of Deland, moved to Farmer City in 1916 and took a post-graduate course in Public Health. In 1929 he was located in Pulaski County, Illinois under the Rockefeller Foundation. Later he entered private practice at Hamilton, Illinois.

Dr. Benjamin Perry came from Chicago in 1915 but could not stand the quiet nights here and soon returned to Chicago.

Dr. George Kerr came next but only stayed seven-teen months. He later practiced in Chicago Heights.

Dr. John O. Cletcher graduated from Normal and then from the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery in 1912. He had a year of interning at the Francis Willard Hospital. He came to Cisco from Penfield. He was here for seven years and did considerable work in surgery, in which he was very interested. He moved to Tuscola in 1923 in order to be near a hospital so he could devote more time to

surgery. Jessie Wilson became his wife in 1926. They had one son, John O., Jr.

Dr. James Weaver Blan came here from Camp Point, Illinois. He was a graduate from Keokuk Medical School at Keokuk, Iowa in 1902. The Doctor was married to Miss Mollie Goehring in 1903 and had two daughters, Dorothy and Mildred. This was a musical family, the doctor being a trombone player in the Shrine Band and Mildred taught public school music. Dr. Blan rather shocked some people when he let it be known that he expected pay for his services. Mrs. Blan died in January of 1930 and the doctor moved to Monticello. Later he was appointed to a position in the Veterans' Hospital in Chicago. The climate there was unfavorable and he was transferred in 1952 to Shreveport, Louisiana. The doctor had remarried, this time to Nellie Haneline. She passed away in 1964. The doctor was retired at the time. In 1966 he lived with his daughter Dorothy in Kankakee, Illinois.

Dr. M. K. T. Blanchard, a woman physician, was practicing in Cisco in the early 1930's. About 1940 she moved to Decatur.

Dr. G. G. Rhodes took his internship at Jackson Park Hospital in Chicago and completed residency at Decatur-Macon County Hospital. Cisco had been without a doctor for several years after Dr. Blanchard left to practice in Decatur. So in January 1942 Dr. Rhodes came to Cisco. His practice grew rapidly, soon outgrowing the small remodelled quarters he had. In 1944, he and his wife (his assistant) and son, moved to Maroa where he practiced medicine about 10 years. At present he is with La Mesa Medical Center of Albuquerque, New Mexico, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology.



Nellie Croninger

## Undertakers

In the early 1900's Chris Minick came to Cisco. He lived in the house on the northeast corner of the intersection of Eldon and Dodge Streets. He served the community as an undertaker and he housed the hearse in a barn behind his home.

Maurice Augustus, who lived on a farm southwest of town owned a fine team of black horses which were used to pull the hearse.

Mr. Minick served in this capacity until advancing age caused him to retire.

In the 1890's W. H. Jones worked as an undertaker for this community. Mr. Jones worked with J. A. Eymann, a mortician from Argenta.

John Benjamin recalls that at one time an undertaker had used the upstairs in the two story part of the Jones Building.

## Millinery Business

On the west side of Main Street there was Fannie Yeoman's Millinery Store from which the ladies could buy their hats. Other Cisco milliners were Russell & Weddle — Millinery and Dressmakers, Miss Ada Higman and Mrs. Ed Rinehart who had their shop in the north room of the Runkle Building. Mrs. Ed Stuckey later had a shop in the building just north of the bank. She was succeeded by Mrs. Elmer Dallas whose niece, Miss Bertha Loveless, assisted her and made her home with her aunt. All these ladies did a thriving business. A newspaper in a nearby locality said, "the ladies in Willow Branch Township are well served by the Cisco milliners."

## Feather Cleaners

At one time a feather cleaning machine was set up by two young men for cleaning feather ticks. A feather tick was a huge sack the size of a bed that was filled with feathers and was put on top of the straw or shuck tick. When one retired into it one sank down into the feathers and stayed warm in the unheated rooms in the homes of the early part of the twentieth century. At times the tick was opened, feathers cleaned, ticking washed and when dry it was refilled with the feathers. The two young men who came to Cisco had two light-frame wagons they used to collect the feather beds in the country. They brought them into Cisco and cleaned them and then delivered them back to the owners. This business lasted only a few months and then they moved on.

## Cream Stations

Joe Williams sold cream separators here in 1906. This was so superior to skimming off cream by hand that soon all farmers were using them. They were then sold at hardware stores. The farmer separated from the whole milk, put in five gallon cans and shipped it to the creameries in Decatur and Champaign.

Later creamery stations were established in small towns for testing for butterfat, weighing, and paying the producer. Then the station shipped the cream to the creameries. Thus the farmer received his pay for his cream much sooner. Later the farmers specialized as either grain or dairy farmers and such stations



were no longer needed. Mrs. Albert Weddle ran such a station in the north room of the building north of the bank. From 1925 to 1935 Mable Lyons collected cream for the Benson Creamery of Decatur, using various locations as her collecting center such as the barber shop, the Jones building, the little building that stood south of Weddle's Store and the old office building for the Crocker Elevator. The Barnhart-Leach grocery was also a collecting station. Before 1943 Emma Lou Johnson ran a collecting station inside Weddle's Store. Mrs. Isenberg collected for Swift and Company from 1943-1948 in a small building south of the Weddle Store.



## *The Lumber Yard*

John Franz was a lumber, coal and grain dealer in Cisco in 1886. He took his son into business with him in 1889 and in a record of DeWitt and Piatt County it says of Charles Franz, "is classed among the leading young business men of the place and is gaining prominence each year."

Marion Williams operated an early lumberyard in the west part of town near the west elevator, later operating a lumberyard in the east part of town.

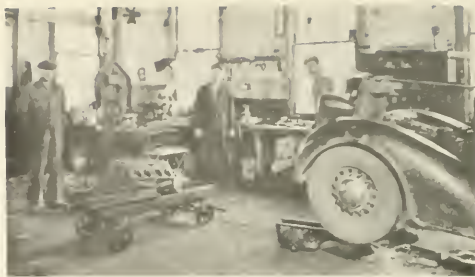
In the 1930's the Midland Lumber Company was here for several years. In 1940 Huff and Sons owned the lumberyard and Don McKinley was the manager. Walter and Art Neuendorf owned and ran a lumberyard. The Wilkinson Lumber Company were the next owners with Don McKinley as manager until the operation was discontinued in 1962.



## *Garages*

The north room of the Swam building was a garage operated by Fred Swam, and his sons until he sold the building to Frank Coffman. Later Frank Coffman sold out to Bill Coffman who handled Hudson cars. Then came Donahue, Heinz and Cotton, Carl Runkle and Lukenbill as partners, Lukenbill alone, the Benjamin Brothers Hip and Wessel, Wessel alone, Troxell in 1924 who sold Star cars, Pete (Russell) Sullivan, then Albert Miller for a short time with Ford Agency. Late in 1931 Scott Armsworth bought it and Ollie Benjamin worked for him as a mechanic. At that time it was called the "Cisco Garage and Supply Co." and when Hip Benjamin came into the business in 1933 they sold Plymouths and changed the name to "Cisco Auto Sales Company." In 1934 they acquired the Ford Agency and in 1935 they dropped the Plymouth. Scott Armsworth passed away in 1943 and following his death Scott Dobson bought the business. Later the Gisinger Brothers and their father Ancil ran the garage until they moved to Cerro Gordo where they still have a garage and Ford Agency.

When autos first began to be used in the Cisco area gas was sold at the hardware, Jefford's harness shop and Heinz and Cotton garage. In the late 1920's Ed Brown built a service station on the northeast corner of South and Main Streets, former location of the Kile home. After his death it was operated by his widow for several years. Frank Dent operated it



**Armsworth's Garage**

in 1949 and sold to Calvin Vannote, who operated it from 1950 until 1972. Since then it has been owned and operated by Hubert Norfleet. When Route 47 went through Cisco in 1941, J. A. Phillips built a Standard Oil station at the north side of town. In 1946 he leased it to Everett Geisler and Harold McKinley for a year. Orville Ludwig followed and bought the station. Dale Wolf, the Scrimmanger Brothers, and Bob Wisehart also ran this station. In 1967, Wilford Johnson bought the station and is still operating it. Both present service stations carry food items for the convenience of the local residents.

At one time a man who was a junk dealer lived on the east side of South Eldon Street between South and First South Streets. Cy Hubbard at one time had a junk business on South Eldon Street. Ray Hatfield had a used car business from 1945 to 1960 at his place on North Main Street. Parts were salvaged and sold for car repairs and the rest cut up and hauled to the Decatur Junk Yard. Two and three cars were so disposed of a day. Robert Weber collects old cars, mostly Hudsons, and sells parts.

Mr. Ray Hatfield has had a dealer's permit since 1935 but started selling here in 1942 handling only used trucks. His display area was on the southeast corner of Main and St. Charles Streets. About 1943 or 1944 he began to also handle used cars as well as trucks. There were several years when he did not carry on the business but became active again in 1971.



## *The Miller Trucking and Bus Business and It's Influence on the Cisco Area*

A trucking business was begun in Cisco in 1924 when Albert E. Miller started a milk route, picking up milk at farms and taking it to Union Dairy in Decatur. Milk was then hauled in ten gallon milk cans. The only method of cooling the milk was to put the can in a tank of cool water to remove the heat. At that time there was a cream buying station in Cisco, operated by Mabel Lyons. The cream was sent to Benson Creamery in Decatur. Quite a lot of their butter was brought back to Cisco to customers. The trucks also hauled groceries, hardware, the Sunday papers, both Decatur and Chicago, back to Cisco for delivery.

Drivers during this period included Albert Miller, Virgil Miller, Carl Coon, Earl Cloud, Jerry Sites, Harry Cook, Homer Doane and Elmer Cloud.

The roads were not improved at the time except Route 10 from Champaign to Decatur via Cerro Gordo (now route 105). The Cisco to Cerro Gordo road was one of the better roads but in the spring thaw it became impassable for a car so people would follow the milk truck through and use the ruts until they became too deep.

From the milk routes, other trucking business developed such as a weekly trip to Bloomington to bring groceries from the large wholesalers there to stores in Argenta and Cisco, hauling grain from shellers, threshers and finally combines to the elevators, hauling gravel (loaded and unloaded by hand), coal from the coal yard to homes, field tile from the railroad to the farm where it was to be used.

An ice business was operated for several years.

In 1928 when Ford started building the Model A, trucks got larger. This made livestock hauling practical and soon trips to Chicago and Indianapolis stock yards became a major part of the business. Farmers bought their own trucks for grain and general hauling. Larger trucks were needed for livestock so Mr. Miller built a semi-trailer. In 1934 he bought a new tractor and a second semi-trailer. For several years they hauled livestock to Chicago from Cisco and the surrounding area. On return trips they hauled hardware for Remmers Harness Shop at Weldon and for some time brought back groceries for Weddle Grocery. If they had nothing else to haul, they could always pick up a load of limestone at the quarry at Kankakee and sell it to area farmers.

The milk and ice business were phased out.

During the off periods other trucking was done such as machinery and furniture moving and general freight hauling for Decatur Cartage Company.

As livestock raising in the area decreased, so did the trucking business, and was just about finished in 1944 when Cisco High School was closed and students were to go to Monticello High School. Rather than have several carloads of students driving to Monticello daily, some of the parents asked Albert Miller if he could get a bus. He bought a 34 passenger bus and transported students from Cisco and those who lived along the road between Cisco and Monticello to school each day, with the parents paying the cost. This seemed to catch on and in 1945, Monticello High School decided to transport all their out of town students and contracted with Mr. Miller to operate five buses for them, Cisco Grade School contracted two buses for their students. Some of the drivers that year were: Jap Phillips, Darrell Spencer, Ray Hatfield, Lois Johnson, Hildred Pirtle, Paul Timmons, Emmett Johnson, Wilford Johnson, Jerry Sites and Edward Allen.

George Miller was discharged from the army in 1946 and became a partner in the business. In 1947 the operation was moved to Monticello to be near more of the business. After his father died, George continued the business in partnership with Jennie Miller, until he bought out her interest in 1954.

In 1948, Monticello Community Unit School District No. 25 was formed, almost as it now is, taking in the White Heath area and requiring more buses. For the next several years 13 and 14 routes were run to serve the district. Although school enrollment has increased since that time, so has bus capacity, so there hasn't been need for any more buses. However, there had to be buses available for activity trips and adult tours, so by 1973, there were 25 buses in the fleet.

In 1973, George Miller sold the whole operation to Bruce Pinks, who now operates the business as Monticello Bus Service. The continuous operation of the trucking and bus business owned and operated by Albert E. Miller and his son George O. Miller thus ended after 49 years.



Mr. and Mrs. H. B. McKinney and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Ater.

## *Insurance Business*

Reed Barnhart had an insurance business in Cisco in the 1940's and 1950's. He wrote all kinds of insurance for his clientele. In 1957 the business was sold to Don McKinley. Perry Brigg and Jack Drew also sold insurance for a time.



## *Electric and Plumbing Business*

Charles Doane and Harry Cook moved their plumbing and electrical business from their first location in the John Shaff Drug Store into the bank building which they had bought. In 1931 they had formed this partnership which lasted until Mr. Doane's death in 1958. Harry continued as a licensed plumber and electrician until he retired in 1969. The building was bought by the Cisco Co-op Grain Co. in 1972.



## *Do You Remember . . .*

When mud was axle deep on a Model T Ford?

When the trains got stuck in snow drifts 2 miles east of Cisco?

When Dad Ragsdale came to town selling watermelons at 4 or 5 in the morning?

## Seed Business

About 1917 Joseph W. Williams (Daddy Joe) who had moved into Cisco in 1906 and sold cream separators, built a warehouse for storing seed corn on the west side of Eldon Street between South and First South Streets. Ears of corn for seed were picked by community farmers from standing field corn stalks. At first these ears were impaled on nails driven into the walls and later were suspended from rafters in racks that held each ear separately. The corn dried over the winter, was shelled by Mr. Williams and made ready for spring planting. Later he added farm fanning mill and cleaned wheat, oats, and beans for seed. When hybrid corn came on the market, Mr. Williams took farmers of the community to visit test plots of the new varieties and encouraged their production. He sold the business in 1947 to Clement J. Colgan and Robert Reuter who added more equipment and increased their volume of business. Reuter left the firm in June of 1953. Clem Colgan continued and dealt in small farm seeds and soybeans. At one time he harvested and prepared blue grass seed from Allerton Park. Clem Colgan processed seeds for F.S. for two years before a plant was built on Dodge Street at the west side of town in 1967. That year's crop was the first processed in the present F.S. plant. At this time twenty-five people work at this plant. Work begins at seven each work day and runs until twelve at night, operating continuously. Over a million bushels are processed annually. This includes 750,000 bushels of beans, 140,000 bushels of wheat, and 15,000 to 16,000 bushels of oats. From 5,500 to 6,000 bushels are bagged daily.



Cob fire in 1963

Memphis, Tennessee, where furfural was made from them. Furfural is used in making nylon, synthetic rubber, charcoal briquets, paint, commercial solvents, plastics, and in refining lubricants. The firm sold out to Walter and Eugene Pirtle in 1951. The cobs are no longer ground but are shipped as they come from the sheller. From 500 to 600 cars of cobs are annually shipped from Cisco. On the corner of Main and South Streets W. H. Jones tin shed was last owned by Walter Pirtle and used by him for cob storage. This building was torn down in 1968.



Pearl, Wilma and Milt Padgett with a John Deere tractor binder.

There have been many people who have threshed and shelled in the Cisco area. Threshing was done by Ed Salsbury, Frank Painter, Hank and Emery McKee, Gisingers, Albert Miller, Charlie Olson and Dick Wangler. Those reported to have ran shellers are Ed Salsbury, Frank Painter, Charlie Olson, Dick Wangler, and Jake Miller. Jakie also has a trucking business which his sons are involved in.

## The Corn Cob Business

Walter Fisher and H. G. (Pete) Benjamin started in the business of grinding corn cobs in 1944. The cobs were ground in a hammer mill and shipped to



Ira McCartney on their first tractor, "Old Bull."

## Edwards Farm Supply Co.

The Edwards Farm Supply Company was formed in 1954. They handle fertilizer and farm chemicals such as insecticides and herbicides. Tom's son Larry became associated with the firm and has made his specialty that of chemicals. This firm was a pioneer in liquid fertilizer and was associated with the second manufacturing plant to make liquid fertilizer in Illinois. Liquid fertilizer has become major source for supplying fertilizer. Since this company is in the heart of Corn Belt, the community has been greatly benefitted by their location here for corn yields have risen from a 50 bushel per acre annual yield to over 125 bushel an acre yield in the 20 years this company has been in operation. Besides the Cisco operation this company has a Maroa Plant, Cerro Gordo Plant, and



in early 1974 expanded to four other plants in Illinois. Their wholesale division covers most of Illinois. Edwards Farm Supply presently employs sixteen people and since 1954 this Company has progressed from one 1948 Ford truck to a fleet of 115 licensed vehicles. Members of this company, Thomas, William and Larry report that they feel that the chemical and fertilizer business is in its infancy and they hope to see Cisco thrive because of this. They say, "We are proud to be part of Cisco." It might be of interest to people that Ira McCartney was Edwards Farm Supply's first customer.



John Benjamin picking corn in 1938.

### *Antique Store*

It was in 1969 that Bud Barnhart began an antique business. Later Gene Pirtle became an associate in the business. In 1972 the business expanded and used part of the building west that had been used for storage of school buses. The motto or slogan for "Bud's Barn" is, "In the heart of downtown Cisco." Bud reports that they do business all over the country. For example, they have recently sent items to the east and west coasts. Many visitors come from near and far away.



W. A. Goken and "Colonel" (note trappings).

### *Barber Shops*

Usually Cisco has had one or two barbers. Frank Watrous operated a shop from the 1890's to the 1900's. Part of the time Joe Ripple had a shop. Elmer Dallas had such a business for 4 years. Others were Pete Beasley and Abel Price. The latter had a daughter, about 15 years old, who used to shave men in her father's shop. Harry Cooney had his shop in the Runkle Building. In 1902 an ad in the *Cisco Index* shows that Bert Rankin had a barber chair in his restaurant. Albert Weddle had a shop in the present building from the early 1920's to 1928. Harold McIntyre ran it from 1928 to 1946. Rolla Van Matre from 1946 to 1948 and it has been Warren Clark's since the early 1950's. Other barbers were Carl Dunkle and Pearly Humphrey.



### *Beauty Parlors*

One of the first beauty parlors was run by Ruth (Kistler) Aber in the 1940's. This was located in the building north of the bank where the barbershop is now. Mrs. Putnam had a beauty shop on the front porch of her home which was on the northeast corner of Main and North Streets. (Walt Pirtles live there now). Nadine (Doane) Cook worked as a beautician from about 1924-1930.

Hildred (Armsworth) Webb ran a shop in her home several years after 1930. Then in 1956 Leora Clifton opened an addition at the rear of her home, called "Le Jak's Beauty Parlor" and this is still in operation. Paula Chumbley presently has a beauty shop "The Village Boutique" just east of her house.

## Avis' Ceramics

Since 1967 Mrs. Avis Bennett has a ceramics workshop at her home at the intersection of Sherman and St. Charles Streets. As a part of her equipment she has molds, a slip machine and two kilns. Mrs. Bennett teaches an all day class and Ruby Leach teaches in the evenings.



## Hazel's Ceramics and Gift Shop

Hazel Pirtle opened a shop at her home on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and North Streets in 1970. Articles she sells in her shop are all items she has made.



Dave Wiseman Pool Hall, 1946

## Pool Halls and Recreation

The Pool Hall was located on the east side of Main Street, site of the present Post Office. Everett Giesler and Dave Wiseman both ran one for years. Then later, Marion "Cookie" Cook ran a pool hall.

A skating rink was run by Dave Wiseman in the Runkle Building where there was a tavern also. Dances were held at night in the skating rink. A story that a number of people recall about the tavern is that one night a bunch got a bit carried away and someone suggested that they throw out the stove and the men did just that. That about finished the tavern.



## Movie House

One entered the movie house from Main Street by a door that led into a narrow corridor to the back of the theatre. The screen hung on the west wall. A door at the southeast corner of the room was the exit. Frank Coffman's son, Guy, operated the engine to generate the electricity to run the projector which Virgil Cotton operated. About 1918 Mrs. Walt Troxell and Mrs. Guy Coffman, who was nicknamed "Peaches", sold the theatre tickets.

Ancil Gisinger recalls that one night a tragedy was averted when the large engine belt broke and hit the wall with terrific force but injured no one. However, it ended the movie and people left in total darkness.



Open Air Movie House

Pete Benjamin recalls attending movies here. It was the usual thing to run serial stories with an episode each week. One such picture was "Helen Holmes and the Lumberland." In those days the movies were in black and white and were silent. They were known as "flicks". Pete also recalls that his favorite comedian was Jerry Sweet who preceded Charley Chaplin.

Free street movies were held in the 1920's and through the later years. They were held south of the east elevator, south of the Runkle Building (McKinley's Store), and south of the present Post Office.

Cisco had tent shows or Percy shows and even circuses in town for the enjoyment of young and old.

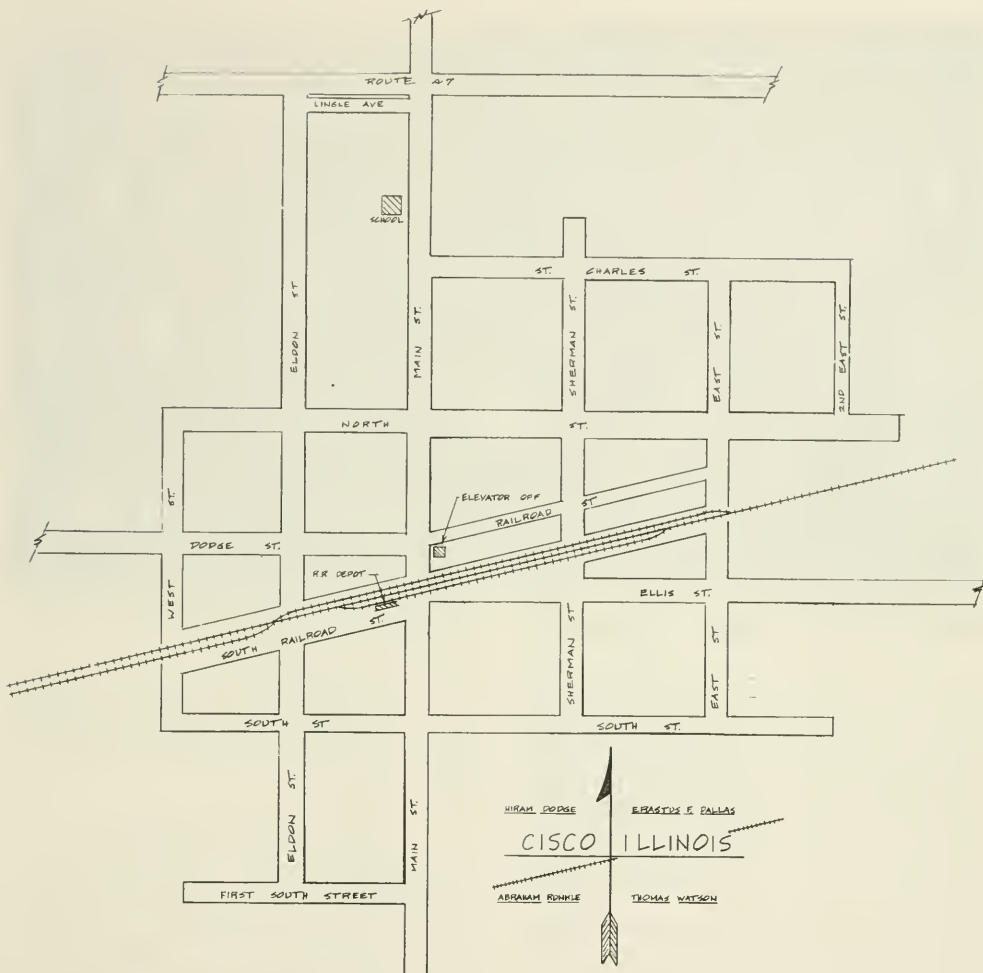
There was an Open Air movie house west of Hitchen's building. The closed front allowed for an entrance, ticket window and projection tower.



Horseback riders: Don Hall, Milt Padgett, Merle Zimmerman, Jim Davis, Tom Leach and Ralph Rannebarger.



Do you remember fishing for tadpoles and crawdads in the Section ditch?



Present town map



Centenarians of Cisco: Harry White (1869-1970) and John Briggs (1871- ).





Teenage Baseball Club, 1947. Front: "Red" Miller, Dale Norfleet, Duane Woodall, Sonny Bently, Bud Schull. Back: Perry Briggs (coach), Junior Miller, Maurice Beckhart,

Ralph Harbart, Chet Woodall, Fred Benjamin, Mike Vannote, Bill Isenburg, Dean Hall, Dale Sheets, Jack Floyd, and Jack Larrick on the shoulders.

Cisco has been a baseball town from back in 1920 or before. At one time we had baseball and softball and different age teams. One year all the Cisco baseball team were hired, except Rip Dowdle and John Gisinger. They were hired from Champaign, Decatur and Clinton. Harry Lyons played on early teams. Games were played east of town and south, before the diamond in town was formed. The first lights were bought by donation, hooked up by Harry Cook and the reflectors made by Pete Sullivan. Rip Dowdle graded McGinnis berry patch to form the diamond at the school.

Cisco had a band in the early 1900's. The leader was Fred Warrick. Sam Clover was a drummer. They practiced in the Opera House, and gave concerts on the street during the summer months. They also played a picnics held in the grove on the school grounds. Interest finally died down and the group disbanded.

Social events included the strawberry festival, 4th of July celebration, church chicken fries, Homecomings, and bean suppers. One person remembers when there was a basketball game followed by a boxing match at one Homecoming.

Other entertainment not listed otherwise were "Play Parties," treasure hunts, chivaries, box socials. Play parties are what the name implies, parties where people played games. Treasure hunts had two main periods of popularity in Cisco. Clues were hidden in town and out and the winners for one time furnished the refreshments for the next time. The drivers of the cars pulled quite interesting antics.

Chivaries were parties given "newlyweds," a surprise party.

Box socials were held to raise money for something or just for fun with an organization benefiting from the proceeds. The lady's would fix a meal for two in a pretty box and then the box would be auctioned off. The lady would eat with whomever purchased her box.



## Little League Baseball

Little League Baseball was organized in Cisco during the year of 1963. Several interested people got together to make plans for the formation of a program and renovate the ball diamond. That same year we were asked to join a league that included Weldon, DeLand, Bondville, Seymour and White Heath.

Since some of these towns had two teams entered in the league, Cisco decided to enter two teams also. The two teams just barely could muster up enough boys to field a full team. Cisco had always been competitive in the league with at least one of the teams and finally won the league in 1972 after forming only one team due to a shortage of players.

Cisco Little League has never had a sponsor, but is made up of an association of interested parents. The teams have been self-supporting due to a concession stand that was built in 1964 and a voluntary five dollar (\$5.00) donation by a participating family.

The following people have been managers or offered leadership since its beginning: Merle Chapman, Sam Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoffman, Bill Sago, Bill Guyot, Jim Giesler, Mr. and Mrs. Essell Miller, Patricia Ford, Glen Bolsen, John Miller, Delbert Williams, Jack Clifton, Don Reed, John Mackey, Jack Drew, Stan Mackey, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Huisinga, Eddie Elson, Dwight Marquis and Shorty Shafer.

## THE CISCO BAND

EARLY 1900'S

*The Cisco band is the finest band  
I nearly ever saw,  
The very first piece they always play  
Is "Turkey in the Straw."  
Now I will tell you what I can  
About this little Cisco band.*

*There's Willie Jeffords, Johnnie Malone,  
And "Bunco" so they say,  
Uncle Sam, he plays the snare drum  
To drive his troubles away.  
Keen, with his old bass horn  
Sounds just like "Barney" before a storm.*

*Mr. Stuckey! Oh how hard he tries!  
And if you watch him closely,  
You'll see he makes those goo-goo eyes.  
Ah! there's Phillip, he cuts quite a swell  
And when he plays that little horn,  
The girls all say, "Don't he do swell."*

*Young Coffin, as you understand,  
He got married and left the band.  
Rollie Evey, as you all know,  
Is right in the front, wherever they go.*

*I've said all I have to say  
So I guess I'd better go,  
For there's no use for Sousa's band  
To play against Cisco.*

—By Blonnie Clover and Zora Ater

## Social Clubs

Royal Neighbors Lodge No. 1986 met the second and fourth Saturday evening in Castle Hall. The Cisco Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 180 met Wednesday evenings and the Modern Woodmen of America met 2nd and 4th Friday evenings in Castle Hall. The Royal Circle Lodge and the I.O.O.F. met in Areli Hall. In the early years there was a club called the Three C's, representing Cisco Crochet Club. The Cisco Garden Club was very active, but disbanded during World War II. They had large and well attended flower shows.



### *Cisco Lodge No. 965, A. F. and A. M.*

The Lodge was formed in 1913 with W. Reed Barnhart as the first Worshipful Master. The Lodge first met in the Odd Fellows Hall until it burned. This was located where the Post Office is now on the east side of Main Street. After the fire the Lodge moved across the street to the second floor of what was later known as the Weddle Store building. In the 1940's the Lodge purchased the Cumberland Presbyterian Church building where they met until consolidation with the Argenta Lodge No. 871 on November 10, 1965, under the charter of the Argenta Lodge. William C. Sago was the last Worshipful Master of the Cisco Lodge.

The Masters of the Lodge were W. Reed Barnhart, Jesse O. Weddle, Charles Doane, Harold McKinney, Ray Statts, W. S. Ater, King Pattengale, W. E. Ater, William E. Wheeler, Walter V. Leach, T. Head McCartney, C. Homer Doane, Ward McCartney, Charles G. Leach, George Brown, William Craig, J. E. Brame, E. L. Augustus, Edgar Dowdle, E. L. Giesler, J. D. Reed, Lawrence Coon, Loren Pattengill, Harley Miles, Dillard Mansfield, John Griswald, R. W. Dowdle, Donald McKinley, Paul W. Craig, E. F. Wikowsky, Orville Sago, Robert Ater, Donald W. Hall, Eugene Conner, Glenn Howard, John Whitlow, C. Orville Ludwick, Charles M. Cook, Jackie L. Floyd, Ross Rudisill, Kenneth Frye, Dale Liestman, Roger Briggs, C. Eugene Gowler, and William C. Sago.



### *Cisco Chapter No. 849 O. E. S.*

The preliminary meeting was held on September 24, 1920 in the Old Masonic Hall over the (Loveless or Dallas) grocery store where the Post Office is now. Then they met in the Hall on the west side of the street over the McKinley grocery store location. The chapter was instituted December 11, 1920 with Della Loveless as Worthy Matron and Harold McKinney, Worthy Patron.

Other officers were Associate Matron, Viola Doane; Associate Patron, —; Secretary, Olive Reed; Treasurer, Homer Doane; Conductress, Gladys Doane; Associate Conductress, Bessie McKinney; Chaplain, Anna McCartney; Marshal, Willard Ater; Organist, Naomi Dallas; Adah, Helen Ater; Ruth, Lavina Weddle; Esther, Alice Coffin; Martha, Bertha Shaff; Electa, Pearl Miller; Warder, John Reed; Sentinel, Wm. E. McCartney.

Charter members were Della Loveless, Sam and Marilla Clover, Park H. Simer, Roy and Alice Coffin, King and Anna Pattengale, Elsie Goken, Charles and Viola Doane, Harold and Bessie McKinney, Effie Armsworth, Albert Von Leach, Warren and Zora M. Ater, John and Olive Reed Earl V. Rannebarger, Bertha Shaff, Wm. E. and Anna McCartney, Evan and Elizabeth Brame, Ray Staats, Permella Staats, Ruth A. Pattengale, Homer and Gladys Doane, Ferdinand and Rilla Elizabeth Mintun, Frank Coffman, Raymond E. and Gladys Rannebarger, Nadine Doane, Willard and Helen Ater, Lavina Weddle, Wm. Ward McCartney, Naomi Dallas, Oscar and Bertha Winzenburger, Pearle Wiggins, Walter and Pearl Miller, Gashen and Leda Cox, Bertha Coffman and Alma Rainey.

This organization has supported many national and state projects.

After many years of activity Cisco chapter merged with Argenta Chapter No. 819 Order of the Eastern Star on December 1965.



### *Cisco Woman's Club*

A group of women met and organized the Women's Club of Cisco, Ill., at the home of Mrs. Katie Young, March 12, 1916. The charter members were Mrs. Katie Young, Mrs. Cora Pape, Mrs. John Fort, Mrs. Alice Williams, Mrs. Bessie McKinney, Mrs. Robert Dent, Mrs. William Jeffords, Mrs. Ethel Bowman, Mrs. Elmer Clow, Mrs. Bertha Shaff, Mrs. Kit Clow, Mrs. Dorothy Daves and Mrs. Edith Barnhart.

The club was Federated with the District April 6, 1923. It was State Federated March 8, 1926, then in November it became General Federated.

The club was first called "Woman's Club of Cisco, Illinois" and met on the first Friday of the month. Now it is called "Cisco Woman's Club" and meets the first Wednesday of the month. In the beginning the local dues were \$.25 a year, now regular dues are \$3.00 a year.

The object of the club is to promote the general welfare of the home and community.

In the early years, if a member was absent from more than two consecutive meetings, she would pay a ten cent fine.

The past presidents are Katie Young, Bessie McKinney, Gladys Remmers, Olive Reed, Mrs. Ralph Allmon, Zora Ater, Gladys Doane, Bertha Shaff, Hazel Pirtle Mrs. Amos Fahrnkopf, Helen Ater, Mrs. James Ater, Ethel Bowman, Elizabeth Reeves, Lucile Edwards, Aileen Rannebarger, Leota Robeson, Beulah Williams, Opal Coon, Florence Mansfield, Ruth Leach, Ruth Zindar, Audra Myers, Juetta Hiser, Patricia Ford, Edythe Weddle, Wilma Hall, Blanche Niles.

The club has had three county presidents: Mrs. Walter Pirtle 1934-1936, Mrs. Bert Reeves 1946-48, and Mrs. Patricia Rannebarger Ford 1966-68.

Among their activities are the founding of the local library; Health Clinic; contributing to the building of the Cross on Bald Knob, purchase of a projector for the school with the P.T.A.; landscaping the



library yard, before the board did it; planted shrubs west of town; planted trees, etc., for the school and the Methodist Church; gave summer music, conservation and art scholarships; and war effort activities.

The library was first put in the Shaff Drug Store under the supervision of Mrs. Shaff. The club finally interested Mr. Allerton and the township in the library.

They celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a tea on April 6, 1966.



## Scouts

From the Cisco news of the Piatt County Republican, December 30, 1920 issue, "At a meeting held Tuesday evening in the basement of the church — preparations were made for the organization of Boy Scouts here. Mr. Kinister of Decatur made an interesting talk on the subject of the Boy Scouts. Rev. H. L. Thall of the M. E. Church is to be local Scoutmaster. About 16 boys have already signed up to become scouts." In 1918 there were 14 scouts represented by Leo Ulman at a program at the Presbyterian Church. Leaders over the years included Rev. Cockran, Pete Benjamin, Rev. Clapper, Dean McCartney, Bob Reuter, Dale Wolfe, Burt McIntosh, Harold Benjamin, Larry Edwards, Bert Tritchler, Paul Slifer and Glen Bolson. The Cubs are under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Don Stevens and are active.



## South Birthday Club

On Feb. 14th, 1925, the following invitation was sent to twelve neighborhood ladies to form a club called the "Birthday Club". Now it is called the "South Birthday Club."

"With an hour full of task  
Your presence I ask.  
To grace a jolly, hearty party.  
We'll laugh and we'll play  
As long as you stay.  
A welcome awaits you most heartily."

The members that joined that day were: Katy Young, Elizabeth Brame, Nora McCartney, Daisy Taylor, Mildred Yates, Blanche Niles, Bessie McKinney, Anna McCartney, Myrtle Whisnant, Olive Reed, Lutie Parr and Lilly Leach.

Mrs. Blanche Niles was the hostess. Members drew the month for entertaining and also a name for a gift for each hostess.

We did all kinds of needlework supplied by the hostesses such as quilting, knotting comforts, hemming dish towels, rug rags. We made garments for the Red Cross, war babies and whatever was needed. We are in our 48th year.

Our friendship has been a token of remembrance all through these years. We never would of visited our neighbors as much had it not been for the Birthday Club.

## The North Birthday Club

The North Birthday Club was organized February 14, 1929 in the home of Mrs. Blanche Niles. The ladies organized as a social and handworking group. As well as their embroidering, knitting, sewing, etc., they sewed baby clothing, lap robes, etc., which they gave to the Red Cross during W.W. II, even meeting for extra hours.

The charter members included Blanche Niles, Edythe Weddle, Aileen R. Rannebarger, Prudie Hamilton, Gladys Doane, Lavina Weddle, Pearl Miller, Thada Olson, Margaret McIntosh and Nettie Clow. The children attended the meetings and looked forward to them. The ladies had many clever meetings as the time they had a mock wedding. Four ladies, Blanche, Edythe, Aileen and Gladys, still belong. Other present members are Audra Chapman Myers, Ruth Reeves, Juetta Hiser, Florence Mansfield, Beulah Williams, Lotus Briggs, and Patricia R. Ford.



## Cisco 4-H Clubs

In 1928 a group of girls organized as the "Jolly Juniors" 4-H Club under the leadership of Mrs. Bertha Shaff, assisted by Mrs. Mabel Ripperdan. After a time it divided into two clubs, the "Cisco Circle" and the "Kitchen Klatter Club." In 1939 it was decided to form one club, making an older girl responsible for helping a younger one, and they named the combined group the "Big and Little Sisters Club." This was a large group and met all day at the Methodist Church for many years.

An example of a days activities as taken from a June 1941 program would be: the business meeting; talks, "Cookies in General," "Kinds of Cookies," "Ways of Using Cookies," "What To Do First in Making Cookies," "Hand Sewing," "Refinishing Furniture," "Ingredients for Yeast Bread"; and demonstrations, quick bread, dairy food, pattern alteration, plain seams, shaping light rolls, flower arrangements, judging cookies, and how to take a hem.

The club had a band, led by Marjorie Reeves, with band uniforms. The band played at church and other functions and in 1941 played in Lincoln Hall Theatre at the Annual 4-H Club University Tour. A few years later the club had a choir.

In the 1942 Piatt County 4-H News Letter it was stated that "In the August National 4-H Club News Mrs. Jason Ripperdan and the Big and Little Sisters 4-H Club were recognized as an outstanding leader and club in the United States, all over the world for that matter, because this is a NATIONAL Magazine. There was a long article about the kind of participation the club takes in the church."

Through the years many girls were selected State Outstanding and from these, four were elected as delegates to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. They were Gladys Reason, Georgia Briggs, Margaret Scott and Carolyn Campbell. Girls and their projects have represented the club and county at the State Fair many times. At the first State Fair after World War II, Frances Reeves and Patricia Rannebarger

were selected to represent the county and received an A rating, giving the demonstration twice at the fair.

Others, who led the Big and Little Sisters Club at Cisco, were Georgia Briggs, Audra Briggs and Elizabeth Reeves. Many other adults helped with the 4-H through the years. When Mabel Ripperdan moved, she took the club name with her to Monticello. During its lifetime the Big and Little Sisters Club received many honors and had many outstanding members.

In 1953, Mrs. Gerald Miller organized the present Cisco Busy Beavers 4-H Club with the projects being foods and clothing. Ruth McFeeters and Doris Ann Sago helped as junior leaders. The leaders have been, Mrs. Miller (1953-1960), Mrs. P. C. Barnhart (1960-1961), Mrs. C. E. Gowler (1962-1967), and Mrs. Roy Kleven (1967 until present). Others that have served as leaders are: Janet Frye, Joy Zimmerman, Joyce Mackey, Mary Blythe, Marilyn Mackey, Marjorie Williams, Peggy Nolan, Jean Neuendorf, Linda Blythe, Beulah Robson, Mary Catlin, Shirley Sievers, Pauline Vannote, Mrs. Thomas Brown, Sue Weber, Diana Hoffman and Martha Edwards.

The club celebrated their 20th anniversary last summer, being one of the oldest clubs in the county. All the people who had helped through the years were asked to come plus the HEA ladies. After the program there was a birthday party with Mrs. Gerald Miller, the first leader, as an honored guest.

In 1971, an IFYE, Mia Jueken from the Netherlands, visited our club. While here, she stayed with the Roy Kleven family and made a Dutch dessert and taught the girls Dutch games at a meeting.

There is no record of how many girls have gone to state fair, but for the past several years at least one has gone. Judy and Susan Vannote did an outstanding demonstration at state fair when Illinois was celebrating its 150th anniversary. They made bread with a starter and wore old fashioned clothes. The girls from the club who have earned the Key Club Award, the second highest award given in 4-H are: Jean Mackey (1956) Susan Miller (1957), Joyce Mackey (1959), and Virginia Kleven (1973).

The Cinderella 4-H Club was organized in 1966 in Monticello with Mrs. Pat Lubbers and Mrs. Yvonne Howland as leader. In 1969 Pat moved to the Cisco area. That year they had a club project of ceramics, which Mrs. Avis Bennett helped them with. By 1970 the club branched into many different areas.

The club has had one or more girls and projects go to the State Fair each year. Among those going are Kathy Howland and Deborah Lubbers.

Some of their activities have been: cooking for their parents, dairy promotion, State 4-H Week, overnight campouts, tour to Tolly's Bakery, McManus Florist, Ken's IGA, Meadow Gold Dairy, Romano's Pizza, Artistic Yarn Shop, Zimmerman Fine Fabrics, etc., and helping with the Earth Day at Cisco.

4-H for boys in the Cisco area started about 1937, Bob Ater being the first leader. In 1938, Rueben Anderson became leader of the "Cisco 4-H Club" for the next 6 years. Some of his helpers were Robert "Peachy" Leach and Corwin Kingston. This club went camping down by the river for a couple of nights every summer. Mrs. Anderson and Mabel Ripperdan

would bring them big freezers of homemade ice cream. With the old mare of Mr. Anderson and an old buggy given them by Bert Reeves, the boys were all over town picking up paper and scrap metal during W.W. II. The paper was taken to the old grain elevator office where it was shredded, baled, and then sold in Decatur. The money earned from the drives was given to the Red Cross and used by the boys for baseball equipment.

After Mr. Anderson, Don Whisnant was leader followed by Orville Sago. Other known leaders are Harold Frye, Orville Frye, Stanley Mackey, who lead for 15 years, James Burns, Frank Hoffman, Dewey Briggs, Roger Briggs, Clifford Davis, Dale Bennett, Jr., and Roy Kleven (present leader).

Shortly after W.W. II there was camping at 4-H Memorial Camp in Allerton Park. The project list available to the boys has enlarged from livestock and garden, so there is a project for all boys interests.



## *Cisco Homemakers Extension Association*

Piatt and Douglas counties united in December, 1930, to participate in the organization known as Home Bureau whose aims are to help the housewife with her problems in the home and with her family. This partnership with Douglas County was dissolved and in 1965 the name was changed to Homemakers Extension Association.

Monthly meetings of the local unit were, and continue to be, held in the homes of members. There were five members that first year: Mrs. Walter Miller, Mrs. W. E. McCartney, Mrs. Clifford Weddle, Mrs. Robert Dent, and Mrs. Lavinia Weddle Gould. Mrs. Gould had the distinction of being county board member. She made the trip to board meetings in Tuscola by driving her son's new car.

There are now 24 members in the Cisco Unit. Present officers are: Mrs. Robert Williams, chairman; Mrs. Gene Gowler and Mrs. Roger Briggs, first and second vice-chairman; Mrs. James Burns, Jr., secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Roy Kleven, county board member.



## *The American Legion Craig-Reed Post 1181*

The American Legion, Craig-Reed Post 1181 was named for two men from the Cisco community, who were killed in World War II, Forrest T. Craig and John David Reed. Forrest T. Craig was lost in Asia while flying supplies over the mountains, known as the Hump, between India and China. John David Reed died during the Bataan Death March in the Philippines. John David was returned after the war and buried in Weldon, Ill. Forrest was never found.

The Post was formed in the fall of 1948 and a temporary charter was applied for on November 26, 1948, with Daniel J. Weddle as the commander. The names on the application were; Robert C. Zimmerman, Gerald J. Sites, George O. Miller, Max L. Cornell, James A. Giesler, Daniel J. Weddle, Wilmer L. Clifton,



Veterans of three wars: Frank Lyons, World War I; Martin Westbay, Spanish American War; and Bill Davis, Civil War.

Jack C. Clifton, Robert J. Dowdle, William S. Armsworth, Edward L. Johnson, Ellis B. Zimmerman, Merle E. Adams, Burt A. McIntosh, Rolla E. Van Matre, Clement J. Colgan and Arthur A. Neuendorf.

On April 2, 1949 the permanent charter was applied for with the following officers: commander, Gerald J. Sites; vice commander, Paul P. Reed; adjutant, Jack C. Clifton; finance officer, Clement J. Colgan; chaplain, Lester Guyot; sergeant-at-arms, Max L. Cornell; historian, Donald W. Hall; service officer, Charles G. Leach; publicity officer, Harvey Jenkins.

The Post first met on the second floor of the Town Hall. They soon moved to quarters over Weddle's Store and remained there until 1954 when the present building was bought from Lyle McFeeters, for the Post home. The Post has been active in the community over the years, presenting Memorial Day services each year and holding an annual fall festival. The Post has sponsored many young men to Boys State and has carried many other Legion programs.

The commanders of the Post were: Daniel J. Weddle, Gerald J. Sites, Paul P. Reed, Jack C. Clifton, Walter Eugene Pirtle, Robert J. Dowdle, Robert C. Zimmerman, Kenneth L. Carroll, Lester Guyot, Jackie L. Floyd, Roger E. Briggs, James R. Edwards, David W. Swarts, W. Eugene Pirtle, Kenneth L. Carroll, Jackie L. Floyd, Delbert D. Williams, Paul P. Reed, Dale E. Leischner, Larry D. Leischner, Larry W. Coon the present commander.



## American Legion Auxiliary

The Craig-Reed Unit 1181 held its first organizational meeting May 6, 1949, in the home of Hazel Pirtle. Assisting with the meeting were the District President, Hazel Cannon; the District Secretary, Eloise Mount; the Post Commander, Jerry Sites; and the Post Adjutant, Jack Clifton.

There were 45 charter members. They are: Betty Armsworth, Dorothy Colgan, Leora Clifton, Mary Carolyn Chapman, Helen Dowdle, Dottie Giesler, Wilma Hall, Ruth Leach, Ruby McGinnis, Ruth McIntosh, Hazel Pirtle, Olive Reed, Jennie Snyder, Mar-

jorie Van Matre, Dorothy Walker, Effie Armsworth, Virginia Cornell, Helen Clifton, Lula Craig, Dorothy Dowdle, Ella Guyot, Bessie Hitchens, Mabel Mills, Mary Lee Poling, Mabel Ripperdan, Bonnie Sites, Myrtle Weddle, Emma Lou Zimmerman, Mabel Lyons, Frances McIntosh, Lotus Briggs, Anita Carroll, Vera Clifton, Cora Cook, Jean Giesler, Jean Guyot, Louise Isenberg, Maxine McKinley, Marilyn McIntosh, Nora Rose Jackson, Flossie Reed, Betty Ripperdan, Louie Swarts, Marilyn Weddle, Hildred Pirtle.

On May 31, 1949, the Auxiliary and Legion held a joint installation service in the high school gymnasium. 34 members were initiated. Hazel Pirtle was the first auxiliary president. Meetings were held in the Town Hall until the next May, when they started using the top floor of Weddle's Store. The present Legion Hall was purchased in 1954.

This organization has always been a service organization, and therefore has done many things for the community. Some of the community services include giving aid to needy families (food and clothing), sponsoring community Christmas parties, serving meals for farm sales, and providing meals when a death occurs in the community. Servicemen are remembered at Christmas time with gifts and cards.

The Veterans craft exchange and the poppy program provide a means of support for some of the hospitalized veterans. The unit sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest and an Americanism Essay contest to help make our young people more aware of their heritage. Coupons are collected to help purchase needed equipment for the hospitals, for example, dog food seals are saved to purchase seeing eye dogs. The unit helps support the girls cottage at the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Home at Bloomington with sponsorship money, Christmas gifts, and spending money for the girls. Hospitalized veterans are remembered with tray favors, clothes, books, puzzles, cards, stationery kits, etc. Numerous other projects and programs are carried out by the auxiliary each year.

The first Fall Festival was held September, 1952, on the school ball diamond. A chili supper and games were featured. It was such a success that it became an annual affair. In 1954, the menu was changed to cornbread and beans. It wasn't until 1956 that they were able to have it in the present Legion Hall. Dances on Wednesday evenings were sponsored to help raise money to pay for the building.

The Junior Auxiliary was first activated in 1953 with Jean Neuendorf as their Senior advisor. Their program has remained much the same through the years. They make tray favors for Danville Veterans Hospital. Joke books, stationery kits, and crossword puzzles are also made. Grave decorations are made and placed on veterans graves in local cemeteries.

Our Gold Star Mothers to date are: Mrs. Lula Craig (deceased), Mrs. Charles Parr (deceased), Mrs. Olive Reed, and Mrs. Leora Vannote. Gold Star Sisters are Nora Rose Jackson and Mrs. Lucille Gulley. Mrs. Joan Vannote is a Gold Star Wife and Miss Susan Vannote is a Gold Star Daughter.

From 45 charter members in 1949, the auxiliary has grown to a membership of 95 seniors and 22 juniors, a total of 117 members in the 1973-1974 year.



## Cisco Junior Woman's Club Cisco Evening Woman's Club

Seventeen women in the Cisco community formed the club on November 7, 1933. At this time the club became affiliated with the district and state federation.

The object of the club was and is now, mutual counsel and sympathy, unity of action in case of need, and the promotion of higher social and moral conditions. The club motto: "Be Ye Workers of the Club and Not Members only."

The charter members were: Martha Allmon, Dorothy Dye, Elizabeth Dye, Maxine Giesler, Ruth Harvey, Mary Johnson, Leora Miller, Doris Sullivan, Thelma Swarts, Norma Taylor, Othello Taylor, Irene Weddle, Frances Rinehart, Laverne Evey, Norma Rose Reed, Delora Whisnant, and Kathleen Sullivan.

During the 1949-1951 period the club name was changed from Cisco Junior to Cisco Evening Woman's Club.

Past presidents of the club are: Othello Taylor, Lelah Cornell, Betty Reeves, Virginia Wiseman, Maxine Giesler, Opal Coon, Hildred Drew, Helen Dowdle, Margaret Weddle, Edith Barnhart, Doris Connor, Vionne Ater, Carolyn Chapman, Vernet Miller, Edna Whisnant, Wilma Hall, Dorothy Colgan, Ruth Harms, Marj Carr, Virginia Norfleet, Kay Gegggle, Jo Ann Vannote, Kay Drew, Joyce Bennett, Helen Miller, Peggy Clark, and Shirley Sievers.

Through the years the club has given time and money to the betterment of the community. Funds have been used for magazines for the school; needed articles for the library, county nursing home, church, and school; summer camp scholarships in art, conservation, and music to area students; and the County Blood Bank. The club has canvassed for the March of Dimes and Mental Health Drives. Sponsored "Community Sing" for several years with the Senior Club, and donated cookies to the Rantoul U.S.O.

To honor the servicemen, a bronze plaque bearing their names was placed at the entrance of the Cisco Methodist Church.

For the past three years a \$200 scholarship has been awarded to a senior graduating from Monticello High School.



## Sewing Club

It was in 1947 that a group of ladies formed the sewing club to do all kinds of handwork for themselves. Some did sewing, mending, crocheting or knitting while they visited. They meet once a month and have a pot luck dinner with no meetings for the months of August and December. This club is still active in 1974. The original members were: Helen Ater, Gladys Doane, Geneva Kistler, Lucille Edwards, Effie Armsworth, Aileen Rannebarger, Evelyn McIntyre, Elizabeth Reeves, Ruth Pattengill, and Ruth Zindar.



PTA Board (1949-50). Standing: Helen Dowdle, Vera Root, Edna Whisnant, Jean Giesler, Geneva Huisinga, June Sago, Hildred Webb, Loren Lewis. Seated: Florence Melvin, Helena Whitlow, Helen McFeeters, Vernet Miller and Gerald Hiser.

## Cisco PTA History

The Cisco PTA was organized in 1948 with Ruth Zindar as president. There were 82 charter members. Pat Lubbers is the 1974 president. Others that served as presidents are: Helen McFeeters, Wilma Hall, Twilia Mackey, Vernet Miller, Edna Whisnant, Mary Carolyn Chapman, Edith Barnhart, Audra Gowler, Dorothy Colgan, Peggy Nolan, Marge Williams, Virginia Norfleet, Florence Hoffman, Shirley Seivers, Nancy Huisinga, and Carol Gulley.

Some of the things the PTA has done through the years are: honored Founders Day, given scholarships to band and vocal students, run concession stand at state musical contest, helped with pre-screening of 3 and 4 year olds, members volunteered as chaperones at Step-in in Monticello, room mothers' parties for Halloween, Christmas, Valentines Day and Easter, publicity book to state many times, talent and male style shows by members, contributed to Educable Mentally Handicapped in Piatt County, honored Lillie Alexander on her retirement, redecorated school library and purchased record player.



Remember the Cisco basketball team coached by Frank Wrench, the principal? The boys practiced in a very small "gym" on the third floor of the old grade school building. And what a thrill it was when we finally got a real gym and had games there.

Remember the girl's basketball team which used to play short games before the boys games?

Remember Alicia Skeet, the music teacher, who came out from Millikin to teach and struggle with our small band?



It's the common ordinary folks,  
The ones like you and me,  
That get most out of living  
In a small community . . .  
The ones who work the whole day through,  
But evening brings them rest,  
Sweet peace and being all together,  
The envy of the best.

# HONOR ROLL

RICHARD REMMERS-N	BRUCE BURNETTE-A	EDWARD JOHNSON-A	ROBERT M'ARTNEY-A
MERLE ADAMS-N	ROBERT LEACH-A	PHILLIP ARCHER-A	HERSCHEL MILLS-A
EDWARD JASPER-A	WM. ARMSWORTH-N	EVERETT JASPER-A	JAMES HECKMANN-A *
MERWIN SULLIVAN-A	DEEN WISEMAN-A	JAMES GIESLER-A	ROBERT ZIMMERMAN-A
ROBERT L. ATER-A	ROBERT MILES-A	LYLE BARNHART-A	JOHN VANDEVENTER-A
GEORGE BENEFIEL-A	MAX WEDDLE-M	PAUL SULLIVAN-N	SMITH GREENWOOD-A
MELVIN LONG-A	GENE MILLS-A	ROYCE BENEFIEL-A	LEWIS WHISNANT-A
ROBERT MILLS-A	PAUL M'KINNEY-A	CHARLES GREENWOOD-A	WINFRED TURNER-A
DONALD BOWMAN-A	GEORGIA BRIGGS-N	HERALD SWARTS-A	PAUL PATTENCALE-A
DAN WEDDLE-A	HAROLD FOUGHT, JR.-N	PAUL ZIMMERMAN-A	LAWRENCE CISINGER-A
VIRGINIA MILLS-N	JOHN GREGORY-A	LORIN CISINGER-N	BRUCE RINEHART-A
HAROLD BRIGGS-A	GENE FISHER-A	CLIFFORD EUBANK, JR.-A	JOE RANNEBARGER-A
DEANE TURNER-N	JAMES DYE-A	JOHN SCHOOLCRAFT-A	LEON CLIFTON-N
EARL FERRY-A	DAVID SWARTS-N	JACK CLIFTON-A	FORREST CRAIG-A
EDITH BRIGGS-A	ELMER REASON-N	MAURICE DOANE-M	MAX CORNELL-A
CLIFTON BROWN-N	ROBERT DOWDLE-A	PEARLEY REASON-A	EDWIN DOANE-A
JERRY SITES-A	J. DAVID REED-A *	HAROLD DENT-A	ANDREW CULLISON-N
PAUL REED-A	ROBERT BLYTHE-A	JAMES DAVIS-A	RAYMOND PIRTLE-A
ROBERT CLIFTON-A	ELDON CHAPMAN-A	BERLE BLACK-A	FRANCIS CHAPMAN-A
LYNN SHULL-A	C. M. DAVES-A	RICHARD GREENWOOD-A	HARTFORD REMMERS-A
IVAN O. RIPPERDAN-N	RUSSEL SULLIVAN, JR.-N		

Honor Roll for World War II, painted by Doris Conner.

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## REMEMBER



Pattengill Deer

Doctors travelled by horseback and horse and buggy to make their calls. According to a journal kept by Dr. Pattengill, house calls were a dollar, medicine usually twenty-five to fifty cents and deliveries ten dollars.



How many remember setting hens and hatching chickens?



Who remembers when Effie Armsworth took peeled apples to church for Bill to eat during the service so he would be quiet?

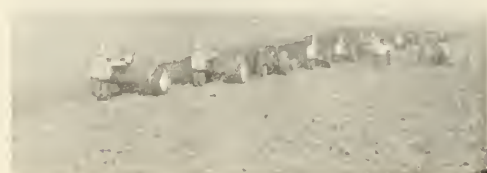


Chandler Reunion at the "Ole Swimmin' Hole" in 1910: Louis, Henry, and Bryon Melvin, Edgar Martin, Mabel Melvin, Donavon, George and Myrtle Whisnant, Helen Melvin, Maude Melvin Harland, \_\_\_\_\_, Lucille and Lloyd Parr.

Riding in the water wagon at threshing time and those wonderful threshing dinners.



When road machinery was a tractor with drive wheels about 8 feet high and the jumbo grader for pulling the dirt to the center of the road.



Helping a neighbor in need.



In 1914 over 100 goats were bought by Earl Rannebarger to clean up the brush. He sold them to Mac Ashton, who gave one to Lawrence Coon. Lawrence trained it to drive. Mac sold the herd to Scott Armsworth, who sent them to Chicago. The men all lost money on the goats.



The days when Charlie Roderick had a Huckster Grocery Wagon?



Do you remember Mohawk haircuts?



Who remembers hunting prairie chickens but had no deer or pheasants?



When we didn't know what soybeans were as a crop?



Who remembers getting baking powder in a hob-nail, milk glass candy dish?



One evening in the late 1920's, a little after 4 P.M., the main street in Cisco became devoid of any form of human life. Usually at that time of day things were pretty busy, but not in this instance. Every person had raced to get behind closed store doors, etc., but all were crowded up to and peering out every available window. The reason? A very, very large skunk had come down the exact middle of the street from way up north and was headed south. He went straight ahead, humping leisurely along, with an utter disdain for the watchers. Suddenly, to the horror of the on-lookers, Charles Leach came striding from the old board-walk area on the east side of the main street. His destination was Barnhart and Leach's General Store, but the path of the skunk was not favorable for this. Unheeding, his head down in thought, Charlie was fast closing the distance. Nobody had the courage to open a door or window and yell at Charlie, because skunks can hear, too. We just knew Charlie would start angling across the railroad tracks and there would be a most catastrophic meeting.

But luckily, in the nick of time, Charlie raised his head. Now, Charlie had long legs and they served him well that time. I don't remember whether he took off east or back south, but he was out of sight in a flash! The skunk reached the depot where King Pattengale was in hiding, too, and then seemed to sort of fade away. Maybe he took the next "puddle-jumper" out of town. He was never seen again.



The old livery stable and when it burned?



# THINGS I STILL REMEMBER ABOUT CISCO, ILLINOIS

by BERTHA M. JONES

My parents were Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Jones. My father owned the grain elevator on the west side of Main Street, across the street from the Weillepp elevator. They were always friendly competitors. Mr. Weillepp's laugh was deep and friendly and a vital part of him and contributed to the feeling of friendliness in the town.

January 12, 1889 I was born in a large white house near the railroad, just east of Main Street. We called the train "Barney," and it was called tri-weekly, "It went west one week and tried to get back the next." Our permanent home was built a few blocks south of this home.

The important buildings in Cisco that I remember are the Methodist Church; the big school; the general store owned by Mr. Seeley, and later Theo Evins; Dr. Pease' office; and our home. Mr. Seeley and Mr. Evins were fine merchants and carried a large stock of modern items. There was a large hotel on the corner across from the railroad station. The place that is still dearest to me is our home, with its barn and the grove of trees west of it. In our backyard we had a cave, where its coolness kept milk at a good temperature.

One summer day I was lying in the thick grass watching the clouds making new shapes like things I had seen. Then I began to wonder how the earth got here. Suddenly I felt that thought was too big for me. However I have lived long enough to see men walking on the moon.

One day a few neighbors came in with the news that men were drilling for water, but got gas instead, and one man in the well died. Now I wonder, with the fuel shortage if it could give Cisco gas for their homes.

Two activities at the church stand out as special. The first was a Christmas Eve. Many families drove in from the country. Townspeople carried lanterns, making a procession down the center of the street to the well lighted church. When we entered the front door, what a wonderful sight we saw! A Christmas tree reaching to the ceiling, was covered with large red, lighted candles. There was a program of songs, and speeches given by the tiny ones to the adults. Then suddenly sleighbells, and Santa with his pack came dashing in. There were gifts for all the children. The big store had been filled with new toys, and most everyone's gift was appropriate.

Then there is the Easter, when the church seemed filled with sunshine. But what was most unusual, and memorable was that all the women who had canaries brought them to the church and opened the cages. The birds flew out, and the church was full of colorful canaries flying above the congregation. The music had competition. But when the service was over, each bird flew to his cage. This was a once-in-a-lifetime Easter service.

The first day of school, Helen Seeley (lives in California in 1974) held my hand all the way to school. Miss Edwards was our teacher. She had excellent training at Normal and made our lessons most interesting. One day we went to the pump in the school yard and learned how to fill different sized measuring utensils. Then we studied physiology, we heard about the bones in our body. On her way home, Bertha Jones stopped at Dr. Pease' office and he explained different sizes of bones and where they were located so she had the answers to take back to the class. But there was something else she saw on the wall, and Dr. Pease said it was a telephone. His sons nailed a cigar box to the wall and wires led to the Pease home nearby, so they talked by phone and saved time and steps.

When I was eight years old, our home and the elevator were sold and we moved to Champaign, Illinois.

There were three girls in our family: Ethel (deceased at four), myself, and Frances (1895-1930). Frances married Charles R. Little and had four children. Frances, her husband, myself and their children all graduated from the U. of I. I own a cottage in Suncoast Manor at St. Petersburg, Florida. My parents are buried in the Belleflower Township Cemetery. When my father died, letters written by our Cisco friends were read at his funeral in Champaign. I will miss attending the Cisco events, but I hope to hear about it.

## The Armsworth Family

Scott and Samuel Armsworth were brothers who came from Ohio to Illinois and settled in Piatt County. Samuel married Celia Ater in one of the first weddings in Piatt County. Their children were: Noah married Eliza Gulliford, James married Emily Gulliford, Rebecca married Abraham Ater, Catherine married George Matchler, James married Elizabeth Hitchens.

Noah Armsworth (1848-1890) married Eliza Gulliford in 1870. She came to America in 1855 from Somersetshire, England, a voyage of 34 days. They had three children: Sadie who married Samuel Parr, Charity who married John Mitchell, and Winfield Scott who married Effie Weddle.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Armsworth had two children, Hildred and William Scott. Hildred married John T. Drew in October 1932 and had two children, Yvonne and Jackson Scott Drew (the present Mayor of Cisco). Yvonne married Raymond Howland and they have three children, Kathy, Randy, and John. Jack married Kay Foster and they have three children, Pam, Christi and Robert. John Drew died in February 1935 and Hildred married Eldon Webb in 1946.

William Scott Armsworth married Elizabeth Steele, daughter of Earl J. and Marie Steele in August 1941. They have three children: James Scott married to Dee Palmer, Mary Beth married to Craig Pillatsch, and Jean Ann at home.

Scott Armsworth resided in Cisco all his life. He taught school, served as manager for the Shellabarger Elevator Co. and the Cisco Grain Co. He owned the local light plant which was sold to the Illinois Power Company in 1927. He was a stockholder in the Croninger State Bank, owned the Home Oil Co. and the Sangamon Oil Co. He was also a partner in the Cisco Implement Co. Scott was school director at the time the gymnasium was added to the school in 1937. He had the Ford agency and ran a hardware store. After his death in November 1943 the hardware store was taken over by his son William who ran it until 1965 when he moved to Monticello and opened the Armsworth Appliance Store.



Scott and Effie Weddle Armsworth

## Ashton

The Mac Ashton family were residents of the Cisco community during the early 1900's, living on the Rannebarger farm two miles west and three-fourth miles south of Cisco for 25 or 30 years, before retiring and moving to Argenta. Mac was a dealer in livestock many years, buying and trading hogs and cattle. He bought locally and from the west, then shipped to Chicago and Indianapolis. Later he was joined in that business by E. V. Rannebarger. In 1918, when the Armistice was signed Cisco had quite a celebration with a barbecued beef south of where the school is. Mac was one of the cooks and helped serve those that attended. He was one of the directors of the Croninger Bank when it closed in 1927.

Mac and Minnie Kaiser Ashton had four children. Edward married Florence Augustus and Ruby Patterson. Josephine married Delbert Hardin and Phyllis married Thomas Huston. There are six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.



## The Ater Family

Mr. Thomas Ater was born in Loudon County, Virginia in 1795. When he was seven years old his father's family migrated to Ohio. He married Elizabeth Brown in 1813. Their five children were born in Ohio: Solomon, Edward, Willie, Celia and John.

In 1827, Thomas, with his family started for Illinois. They reached Vermillion County the same month and camped out until a homestead was procured. They settled on raw prairie and unbroken timberland, to clear, cultivate, and improve which required energy, strength and persistence. After living in Vermillion County for several years, the entire family moved to Piatt County and settled in Willow Branch Township. He died in 1852 and was buried near his last home southeast of Cisco. His wife survived him many years, and died in 1877.

Solomon Ater married Martha Ann Fisher in 1853. To this union were born five children: Willis, Ann, David, Edward, and Elizabeth. His first wife died in 1863. He later married Margaret Hott. One daughter, Ally was born in 1864.

Edward W. Ater (1858-1941) married Amanda Freeman Miner. She was the daughter of Ira and Mary Ann Bruffett Miner of Piatt County. They were the parents of three children: Warren Solomon, Willard, and Gladys. Edward farmed and raised livestock one mile south and one-half mile east of Cisco. He was a charter member of the Cisco Masonic Lodge No. 965. He was also a charter member of the Cisco Cooperative Grain Company and served as director for several years. He was a member of the Cisco Methodist Church Building committee when the present brick structure was built and a member of the board of directors of the M. Croninger and Company Bank.

Warren Solomon, the son of Edward and Amanda married Zora Williams (see Williams history).

Willard Ater attended school in Cisco and two country schools. He married Frances Helen Jones in

1912. They lived on the farm where Willard was born and raised. Two daughters and a son were born to this union: Evelyn, Margaret, deceased, and Donald. Willard will be 83 years young in November and is in good health. He lives with his son Donald in Louisiana.



Edward Ater Family, front row: Amanda Miner Ater and Edward Ater; back row: Willard E. Ater, Gladys Ater and Warren S. Ater

Evelyn, daughter of Willard and Helen lived all but a few years of her life in Cisco. She married Paul Edgar Timmons, son of Gurnie Jackson and Mary Summers Timmons. After living in Lodge a few months they moved to Cisco. Three children were born to this marriage; Carol Joanne, Shirley Jean, and Roger Paul. Paul Edgar died in 1947 and the family soon moved to Monticello.

Carol Joanne, after graduating from high school and attending MacMurray College married Robert Wayne Otis of Champaign. They have four children: Victoria Lynne, Kimberly Rene, Kathryn Denise, and Robert Sherman. The family now resides in Champaign.

Shirley Jean graduated from Monticello High School and married Charles F. Sievers. Born to this union were two daughters, Pamela Jo and Debra Jean. In the spring of 1965 the family moved from Monticello to a farm northeast of Cisco. The farm has been in Mrs. Sievers family for four generations. Their daughter, Pamela Jo became the bride of Mark Edward Morgan in 1973.

Roger Paul Timmons after attending school in Monticello entered the service in 1958. He married Janice Vianne Kitson. Four children were born: Brian Paul, David Mark, Gary Alan, and Marci Lynn. The family now resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Donald, son of Willard and Helen spent his childhood days in the Cisco community. He continued on with the family's farming interest. In 1938 he married LaVonne Chapman. They have five children: Marcia Kay, Donald Willard, Susan Lynette, Edward William and Alan Ray. Don had an International Harvester Implement store in Cisco for a few years. In 1958 they moved to Louisiana where they continue to farm and now live in Ferriday. Don is involved in several other successful business interests.

Gladys Ater (1896- ), daughter of Edward and Amanda, lived in or near Cisco her entire life. She married Raymond E. Rannebarger, son of Earl V. and Mellie Hendrix Rannebarger, in 1917. She is a charter member of the Eastern Star; a member of the Argenta Birthday Club, and the United Methodist Church of Argenta.



## *Family of Joseph Hendricks Barnhart*

Joseph Hendricks Barnhart (1871-1948) spent his boyhood on a farm east of Mansfield, Illinois, and received his education in the rural schools of Champaign and Piatt Counties.

He married Emma F. Hummel of Monticello, Illinois in 1904. (Emma's father migrated from Hummelstown, Pennsylvania.) They farmed northeast of Cisco from 1904 until 1945. He took an active interest in local politics and the Methodist Church at Cisco. He was a director of the Cisco Grain Company. Emma was a successful chicken farmer, keeping up with the latest information.

In 1945 they purchased a home in Monticello. They developed a large flower garden where he was suddenly stricken while mowing around a bed of flowers.

They were the parents of two children, Opal and Lyle.

Emma lived in Monticello until her death in 1964.

Opal Barnhart Hough (1904-1946) was born near Cisco. She was educated in the Piatt County Schools, graduating from Monticello High School in 1922. She was educated to be a grade school teacher. In 1924-26, she taught in the school at Cisco, Illinois.

In 1929 Opal married David I. Hough. They resided in Sandwich, Illinois until 1939. Four children were born: Marilyn Jean (1930), Patricia Louise (1931), Rose Marie (1934), and Gary David (1938).

In 1939 they moved to live on the Barnhart farm near Cisco. Opal taught at New Union for a few years. In 1944 they moved near Mahomet.



Joe and Emma Barnhart



Lyle Barnhart was born in 1910 near Cisco. He was educated in the Piatt County Schools, graduating from Monticello High School in 1927. In June, 1939 he married Barbara Ramseth of Chicago. They have two sons, Byron James (1950) and Warren Stephen (1952).

Since 1945 Lyle has lived in Fulton, Illinois, employed as an actuary for a life insurance company.



## Reed Barnhart Family

William Reed Barnhart (1881-1956) a son of John C. (1837-1922) and Susannah Drum Barnhart (1841-1923) was born in Cerro Gordo, Illinois. There were six children in the family, two dying in infancy. His parents came from Ohio and Indiana. His father served as a First Lieutenant in the Civil War and was a cabinet maker. Some of the walnut furniture he made is still in the family.

Reed married Edith Mae Young (1886-1969), daughter of P. C. and Katie E. Stuckey Young, in Decatur, Illinois on June 17, 1908. When they met, she was taking courses at Millikin University and he was clerking in Foiraths Shoe Store. After a short time in Decatur they moved southwest of Cisco and farmed with her father. Later, in about 1912, they lived one-half mile south of Cisco in a house built by P.C. Young and kept in the family until 1969, when it was sold.

In 1921 Reed and Edith moved into Cisco and lived just south of the M.E. Church. He worked for the Cisco Grain Company and later owned a grocery store with Charles Leach. The last several years before his death he sold insurance.

He was First Master of Lodge No. 965 and served as Potentate of the Ansar Temple, Springfield, Ill., in 1954.

Three children were born to them. Mrs. William (Helen LaVerne) Patrick in 1910 and living in Downers Grove, Illinois. Mrs. Gerald J. (Inez Kathryn) Sites, born in 1915, and P.C., born in 1920, both living here. Gerald Sites passed away in 1971. He was an electrician at Allerton Park and resided in this area for many years.



Reed and Edith Young Barnhart

Katheryn has five children, namely, Larry Reed Bartram living south of Bement, Illinois; Wendell Terry Gregory, Springfield, Missouri; John William Gregory, Edwardsville, Illinois; Edith Sondra (Gregory) Petro, Monticello, Illinois; and Mrs. John (Loria Sharon Gregory) Daily, living south of Arthur, Illinois. There are thirteen grandchildren.

P.C. married Edith Margaret Davenport in 1942 and they have three children: Mrs. Larry (Deanna) Metzger, Warrensburg, Illinois; Mrs. William K. (Mary Jane) Dickman, Jr., Freeport, Illinois; and Ronald Barnhart, Cisco, Illinois. There are two grandchildren.



## Fred Benjamin Family

Fred Benjamin was born at Pekin, Ill., in 1873 and Grace Bolsen was born at Hartsburg, Ill. in 1875. Both sets of parents, Fred and Hattie Stackhouse Benjamin and John Wessel and Jennie Remmers Bolsen, came to the United States from near Emden, Germany around the years of 1860 to 1872.

Fred and Grace were married in 1895 and moved to the Cisco area living in the Kentuck neighborhood on Stringtown Lane. In 1927 they moved into Cisco in the house in which Ruby Leach presently lives. In 1929 they purchased the Russell Sullivan house.

Fred began his job as janitor of the Cisco Grade School in the fall of 1932 and was employed here until 1943. Many of the students at this time may remember, he had a thumb, index finger and middle finger missing. When he was a young man he was running a wood shaper in a wagon factory at Pekin, when his glove was caught in the machinery and the fingers were cut off down to the knuckles.

The children of Fred and Grace are: Fred E. (Hip), Harold G. (Pete), and John, living in Cisco.

Hattie (1896) married John Gillespey and they reside in Decatur. Their children are: Fred, Marion, Paul, Bernice, Evelyn, Calvin Joan, Mary, Robert and Janet.

Wessel (1898-1961) married Mildred Coffery. Their children are: Jacob (deceased), Richard and Phyllis. He later married Maud Webb. Wessel served in W.W. I.

Jennie (1899) married Herman Rose and lives in the Chicago area. Their children are: Grace (deceased), Alice, Allen, Thelma, Don, Lloyd and Sharon.

Grace (1906) married Aaron Woodall. They lived in Cisco for several years while Aaron was employed by the Cisco elevator. They now live in Monticello. Their children are: Chester (deceased), Duane, Juanita, Ralph and Mildred.

Oliver (1909-1951) married Edna Thompson and they are the parents of Barbara (deceased), Phillip, and Jerry (deceased).

Hazel (1904-1907).

Freda (1914) married Charles Clow of Cisco and their son is Delmar Dean. She later married Wiley Marvel and they live in Texas.

Fred E. "Hip" (one of ten generations of Fred Benjamins) and Magdalena "Lena" Himmelbaur married in 1925 in Indiana. When they moved to Cisco in 1933, they had three children: Leora (1926), Fred H. (1930) and Roy (1932). Hip was working with Scott Armsworth as a car salesman. They moved into the home now owned and occupied by the Jack Cliftons. Roberta (1936) was born here. The family then moved to Gilman where Jack (1937) was born. They returned to Cisco and worked for Armsworth again in 1938. Rosemary (1940) was born here. When auto production stopped in W.W. II, Hip worked for a roofing firm at Wilmington, Ill., but the family remained in Cisco. He worked for Perfect Potato Chips Co. in Decatur for 25 years, retiring 5 years ago.

Leora married Jack C. Clifton, the son of Wilmer and Vera Clifton. Their children are Diana Lyn and Jack II (*see Clifton history*).

Fred H. married Emily Marigell in New York and have two children, Fred and Lisa.

Roy married Eileen Tauber of Decatur. Their daughters are Karen, Ann and Kathleen.

Roberta married Leroy Sheets and they live near Cerro Gordo. Their children are Terri, Tammy and Cody.

Jack married Delores McGlade and have a daughter, Lena. He later married May Mathis and is now living in Florida.

Rosemary married Alfred Williams of Warrensburg. They have a daughter, Lynnette, and live at Carmi.

Harold G. "Pete" (1902) began driving the oil truck for W. S. Armsworth in 1926 and later worked for Midland Lumber Co. and the Cisco Grain Co. He married Edna Krall of Cerro Gordo and a son Harold E. was born in 1936. Harold married Anna Mae Buck, daughter of Melvin and Leona Buck of Cisco. Their children are Curtis and Ginger. Harold E. works as a Pinkerton Guard.

In 1944, Pete and W. R. Fisher went into the cob business. He also worked for the Willow Branch Township and Wilkinson Lumber Co. In the 1950's, he started working for the Weddle's IGA Grocery Store as a meat cutter. He worked there until they sold it to Don McKinley and then retired when the store closed in 1972. They have lived in their present home 40 years.

John (1911) married Mildred Smock in 1934 and farmed in the Farmer City community until 1944, when they and their oldest child, Marilyn Irene (1940) moved to Cisco. Russell Dean (1944) was born in Cisco and John Leslie (1948) and Donna Arlene (1951) were born after the family moved here. All the children attended Cisco Grade School and graduated from Monticello High School. John works for Kelly Potato Chip factory.

Marilyn graduated from Illinois State University with a B.S. degree in education. She married John Mackey and they live southwest of Cisco with their children, Byron Stanley, Craig John and Karen Irene.

Russell married Cherly Rogers of Monticello and have a son, Robert Dean. They live in Galesburg, Ill., where Russ teaches art and coaches.

John L. spent one year in Viet Nam with the U.S. Army. He married Frances Daugherty of Maroa and lives in Argenta with their son, Travis Jay.

Donna graduated from Patricia Stevens Career College and married Gary Chandler of Maroa. They live in the home which was her Grandfather Benjamin's.

Mrs. Addie Smock, mother of Mildred, makes her home with the John Benjamin family. Being born in 1888, she is one of the older residents of Cisco.



Fred and Grace Benjamin and their granddaughter, Marilyn.



## Dale Bennett Sr. Family

Dale's grandfather was Joseph Bennett and was married to Elizabeth Wilson. They immigrated to Fulton County from Ohio. James Bennett, Dale's father, married Carrie Valentine in 1894. Dale was born in 1906 at Fullerton, Illinois. Dale married Avis Kuhns from Ivesdale. They moved to Cisco in 1958. Dale is a retired farmer and carpenter and Avis is employed at Allerton House, University of Illinois.

Dale and Avis have three children: Mrs. David (Patricia) Swarts, Dale Jr., both living in Cisco and Mrs. Peter (Darlene) Macklin, living in Levittown, New York. There are ten grandchildren.

Dale Winfred Bennett, Jr., and Joyce Marie Stain were married at the Methodist Church in Monticello in 1953. In 1956 they moved to Cisco and lived in a mobile home until 1965 when they built a new home. Dale and Joyce have three children: Randy Dale (1955), Robert Dean (1961) and Scott Eric (1969). Dale is employed at Caterpillar Tractor Co. in Decatur.



Did you ever see Jason Ripperdan with his milk bucket on his arm, head for the elevator? Why? Because the day after Halloween he always knew where his cow would be.



Ray and Florence Blythe in 1915.

### *Blythe History*

Florence May Andes and Ray Isiah Blythe were married in 1915 in Mattoon, Ill. They moved to Kansas for five years and two children, Helen and Forrest were born there. The family moved back to Illinois, where their three other children, Robert, Dwight, and Doris were born. In 1936 they moved near East School at the edge of Cisco, on land owned by P. C. Young. In 1938, the family moved to Deland and worked for George Trenchard. In 1942, they moved to John Huisinga land north of Cisco and in 1944 moved to the Joe Barnhart home place and farmed until 1969.

Due to a broken marriage, they adopted Stephen and Beverly Blythe, children of Forrest, in 1944.

Helen married Arthur Stain who died in 1974. Helen and her three daughters live in Cisco. Joyce Marie married Dale Winfred Bennett, Jr. (*see Bennett history*), Delores Jean married George "Eddie" Elson in 1959 and moved to Cisco in 1967. They are buying the home previously owned by George Lyons. Their children are Michael Joseph, Rebecca Jean, and Samuel Eddie. Florence Aleen married Gary Lee Walters, and have children: Cynthia Ann, Kimberly Sue, Roy David, Douglas Ray and Melissa Aleen. Helen's three sons are Arthur David, Billy Ray and Paul Dean.

Dwight married Mary Bridges in 1947 and moved into the Barnhart tenant house. In 1954, they moved to the Oressa McQueen property. Their children are Linda Sue married to Larry Dyson of Monticello, Rickey Joseph and Rusty Allen. Linda and Larry live northeast of Cisco and have a son Corey Lee.

Ray retired from farming in 1969 and moved into Cisco. Ray died in 1970 and Florence still resides here.



### *Bowman - Mansfield*

Dillard Cox Bowman, the son of Martin and Amanda Taylor Bowman was born in 1882 in Richmond, Kentucky. He was one of eight children. His parents both passed away at the age of 49 years. Their youngest children, sons, ages 6 and 10 found

a good home in the Masonic Home where they learned the trade of printing with which they earned a living until they retired. They made Kentucky their home.

The oldest brother, Jim, came to Illinois and later got a job for Dillard as a farm hand on the Morris Augustus farm. One by one, one brother and two sisters came to Illinois, married and raised their families here.

Dillard married Florence Reeves in 1906. She passed away in 1913. He later married Ethel Hinson, daughter of Sol and Emma Carter Hinson. She was born in 1882 and graduated from Springfield Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse.

They retired from farming, moved to Cisco and bought a grocery store in partnership with Roy Coffin. Because of Roy's ill health they sold it to Barnhart and Leach. Dillard then worked for the lumber yard. He also kept busy sharpening saws until his eyesight began to fail.

They moved to Argenta in 1951 where they lived until his death in 1957 and her death in 1970.

Dillard's nephew, Dillard Mansfield, and his wife, Florence White, moved to Ethel's farm northwest of Cisco which they farmed until her death. Dillard sold hybrid seed corn in both Macon and Piatt counties for 30 years. They moved to Cisco in 1969.

Their son Eugene married Barbara Barnes August 13, 1966. They have one son, Larry Lee. They moved to the Rannebarger farm southwest of Cisco in 1967.



### *John Evan Brame*

Evan Brame (1879-1960), son of Jacob and Emmie Coburn Brame, was born at Portsmouth, Ohio. He came to Illinois at the age of sixteen. Worked on a farm in Cerro Gordo area. He married Elizabeth Primmer, daughter of Peter and Minerva Davis Primmer in 1902. He started working for Jacob Hiser, sixty days later the same year, Mr. Hiser sold his farm machinery to Mr. Brame. He continued to farm the land for several years. Then rented the Robert Blood land until 1917, moved to the F. Irwin farm south of Cisco, then to a Pattengill farm.



Elizabeth and Evan Brame in 1902.



Mr. Brame bought one hundred twenty acres south of Cisco in 1922. In 1924 he moved on his own farm where he had built a new home.

They are the parents of five children: Everett, Edythe, Frank, Earle and Ralph. Everett married Helen Vinson of Indianapolis, Indiana. Edythe married Clifford Weddle of Cisco, Illinois. They are the parents of John Maurice and LaVerne Elizabeth Weddle. Frank married Ethel McCoy of Decatur, Illinois. They are the parents of Rose Marie and Richard Brame. Earle married Esther Coffey of Stonington, Illinois. They are the parents of Mary, Robert and Karen Brame. Ralph married Orlean Brahm of Richmond, Indiana. They are the parents of Shaaron Brame.

Mrs. Brame died in June, 1956.



## *The C. L. Briggs Family*

John Wesley Dallas was born in Virginia (1812) and married Henrietta Brown in 1835. They were the parents of four children; Erastus Fletcher, Drusilla Evaline, Jeremiah, and Sarah Elizabeth. Sarah Elizabeth married Thomas Williams.

Drusilla married Charles C. L. Briggs in 1862 and they were the parents of six children. Of interest to this Cisco history are: Clark Walter, born near Circleville, Ohio in 1863, married Eugenie Phillips in Kansas in 1893; Mary Etta, born in Piatt County in 1865 and married Thomas Lee McGinnis at Cisco in 1891; and Ida Roselle, born in 1871 and married Edgar L. Coffman in Cisco in 1892.

By coincidence, Ida and her first cousin Grace Williams (Martin) were married in the Cisco Methodist Church the same day to men with the same first name (Edgar).

Clark Walter taught in Piatt County schools and lived with local families, but he would take to each house his own special chair. He went to Kansas where he married Edith Eugenie. Their children were: Charles Perry, George Dewey, Mary Edith and Clark Walter Jr.

George Dewey Briggs (1898-1970) was named after Admiral George Dewey. Dewey entered military service upon graduation from high school. He came to Illinois in 1919 and transferred his membership into the Methodist Church. He served many offices. He was a Mason, member of the Bloomington Consistory and Ansar Shrine. He was president of Piatt County Farm Bureau; president of the Weldon State Bank; helped organize the Fire Protection District; treasurer of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts and a director of Federal Land Bank Association.

He married Lotus Martin in 1921 and began farming in Champaign County. Later they moved northwest of Cisco. Their children are: Georgia, 1923; Betty, 1925; Audra, 1929; Roger, 1930; and Miriam, 1936.

Georgia served in the USNR, being mustered out in 1946. She attended college and married Robert Junior Mills in 1948. They have two children and reside in Manteno.

Betty graduated from the University of Illinois, qualified as a commerce teacher. She married William M. Abbott of Morrison. They farm in Whiteside County. Their four children are: Linda, Charles, Alfred and Louis.

Audra attended the University of Illinois, married C. E. (Gene) Gowler and live on a farm northwest of Cisco. Gene served in World War II. They have five daughters: Carol (Mrs. John Drayton); Sandra (Mrs. Christopher Wright); Vicki, a graduate of the University of Illinois; Patsy (Mrs. John Whitlock) with one son; and Lisa a student in Champaign.

Roger took short courses in Ag and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He married Gertrude Massey in 1952 and they farm northwest of Cisco. Their children are: Annette, Randall, Gregory, and Scott.

Miriam graduated from Monticello High School. Her older sisters and brother were graduates of Nixon Township High. She attended business school and married Stanley SeEVERS in 1956. Stanley is a carpenter and millwright. Their children are: Janece, Jodi, and Jonathan. They live northwest of Cisco.



John Briggs Family, 1892, front: Sarah, Levi, John and Arthur; standing: Robert, Jennie, John O., Elmer, Edith.

## *John Briggs Family*

The Briggs family came from Scotland early in the nineteenth century when Andrew, who lived 102 years, a Protestant innkeeper, was driven by religious persecution to Ireland, settling near Belfast. Among his three sons was Thomas (1815), a flax farmer and linen weaver, who married Mary Armstrong, of Scottish descent, and they had ten children. Because of the large payments demanded by their English landlords, they sought a place of more freedom, and in 1861, the eldest son, John (1840-1931) came to America, settling near Bloomington, Illinois. As soon as he earned the fares, he sent for his father and brothers. John married Sarah Osborne (1854), in 1871, and they had ten children, three dying in childhood. In 1885,

the family came to Cisco, and lived one mile north and two miles east of town. Besides farming, John did tiling in the area. Sarah died in 1898, and John married Anne Burge, who did not live long. John then made his home with his daughter, Jennie Miller.

John and Sarah's children are: John O. Briggs (1871- ) married Lena Dresback of Deland in 1898. He was a teacher most of his life. They had two daughters, Lora (1902) and Thelma (1906) who married Dimitir Ramandonoff. They and their son David are musicians. Lena died in 1947, and John, a retired teacher, now lives at Evenglow Lodge, Pontiac, and is nearing 103 years.

Edith Briggs (1873) married Harry Miller (*see George Miller history*).

Jennie Briggs (1874-1973) married Albert Miller, brother of Harry (*see George Miller history*).

Robert Briggs (1882-1942) married Blossom Axrell. They and their six children lived in Washington.

Elmer Briggs (1884-1962) married Katherine Greer, and there were two children.

Arthur Briggs (1886- ) married Gertrude Denison in North Dakota in 1914 and they had one child.

Levi Briggs (1889-1936) married Lela Andrews in 1920. There were seven children and they lived in Chicago.

Carl Briggs (1894- ) married Laura Dennison, sister to Arthur's wife. They have two children and also live in Great Falls, Montana.



## *Burns Family*

Mr. and Mrs. D. James Burns and son, Jim, moved to Cisco in February of 1953 from Clinton. They moved on the Pattengill Farm where they reside in the Croniger Homestead. In December of 1954, their second son, Paul, was born.

In the 21 years of living in Cisco, James and Mildred have been active in many organizations. James belongs to the Piatt County Farm Bureau, Pork Producers, a 4-H Leader, served on the 4-H Council and chairman of the 4-H Fair, and is a director of Cisco Cooperative Grain Co. Mildred has been active in Home Extension and South Birthday Club. The family attends St. Philomena's Catholic Church in Monticello. Of course, they spend the biggest part of their time farming, raising cattle and feeding hogs.

Jim has farmed with his father since graduation from high school. He married Michelle Vermillion from Clinton in February of 1969. They have one son, Chad, age 4, and one daughter, Stacey Ann.

Paul is attending the University of Illinois, majoring in animal science.

## *The Burton Family*

Ernest Burton and wife Ruie with their two sons, Winston (1940) and Larry (1944), moved to Cisco in 1948 from Ohio.

Ernest lived on a farm near Monticello with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Crave Burton. His mother, Millie, lived in Cisco as a child and she and her older sister, Charity, attended Cisco school. Then her family moved to Kentucky where Millie married Crave Burton. They moved back to Illinois in 1927 when Ernest was nine years old. Ernest graduated from Mahomet High School and married Ruie Tarter of Nancy, Kentucky. They lived on a farm near Monticello later moving to Indiana and Ohio. They returned to Cisco. Ernest was a carpenter for Simmons Construction in Decatur and is now school custodian at Washington School in Monticello. Ruie is employed at Kirby Hospital.

The children graduated from Cisco Grade School and Monticello High School. Winston married Phyllis Cornelison. He is now an Elementary School Principal and Pastor of a Baptist Church in Fordland, Missouri. They have two children, Melissa and Carol Anne. Larry, after graduating enrolled in Southwest Baptist Junior College in Missouri in 1962. Then in 1963, Larry lost his life in a plane crash. Rebecca Lynn (1954) married James W. Hanson of Monticello. They are living in Cisco. She is a receptionist at an Insurance company and Jim works in Champaign.



## *The Campbell - Kleven Family*

In 1894, William Campbell and wife, Lucinda Jackson Campbell, loaded their possessions and small 2 year old son, Roy H. Campbell, into a covered wagon and headed west for Nebraska. After two years of heartbreak and failure, my grandfather sold everything but the horses to buy a saddle and two tickets on the train back east. Dad and Grandma Campbell came back to Lane, Illinois on the train. Grandpa rode one horse and led the other home.

For several years the Will Campbell family lived near Lane, Illinois. About 1906 the family moved to a John Warner farm south of Deland. For most of his adult life Roy did chalk talks for entertainment. He was often called on to give a picture at a school or church program.

In 1915, Roy H. Campbell and Geneva Martin, daughter of E. O. Martin and Grace Williams of Weldon, married in her parents' home, the house where Lotus Briggs presently lives. The Martin family is related to the Chandlers, Melvins, Parrs, as well as the Williams and Reeves.

In 1934 my parents moved to the farm where we presently live. I grew up here on the farm with my sisters, Maxine Poff, Weldon, and Wilma Goble of Clinton, and one brother Martin who is deceased. My parents celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in Dec. 1973. They still reside in Weldon.

I married Roy J. Kleven in 1955. Roy and I met each other while attending the University of Illinois from which we both graduated. We have five children, Virginia, John (deceased), Brigetta, Mark, and Philip.

—by Carolyn Kleven



## Camic Family

Mr. and Mrs. Curt Camic moved to the Robert S. Ayre farm, southwest of Cisco, from Bethany, Ill., in 1961.

Curt was awarded a certificate of merit in 1965 for outstanding accomplishment in soil conservation.

Ellen teaches second grade in Mt. Zion Unit and was voted "Teacher of the Year" in her district for 1973. She is a member of Cisco Woman's Club, South Birthday Club and United Methodist Women of Cisco church.

They have one daughter, Mary Brown, who teaches primary class of Cisco Methodist Church. Her two children are Robin and Chris Brown.



## Chandler

Hiram Chandler and Rachel Manlove were married in 1841 in Indiana but they soon moved to Illinois and settled in the southeast corner of DeWitt County. Gary Goble, a descendant, and his family live in the Chandler homestead now. Hiram was the first white man to occupy this land and so he was turning virgin sod when he plowed. Hiram was Nixon Township's first supervisor and also treasurer and kept large sums of money in his house which made his wife most uneasy.

Rachel (1818-1899) was a member of the Quaker Church until soon after her marriage when she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. She held Sunday School in her home. This was the beginning of the Pleasant Ridge Society which later combined with two other religious groups to form the Cisco M. E. Church. She was a member of this church for 60 years and served as a member of the Quarterly Conference — in those days that was an unusual position for a woman. Traveling preachers found her home a safe and sure retreat for many years. The renowned preacher, Peter Cartwright, was a guest several times. She contributed the land for the Chandler Cemetery that is still being used today.

They had seven children: Mary, Jane, Martha (*see Melvin history*), Flora, Jasper, Walter and Wilbur. Mary who died in 1862 is buried in Chandler Cemetery.

Jane Mehitable married William Stribling Martin in 1866. She moved  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile across the fields to the Martin Homestead where Lotus Martin Briggs now resides. William S. had bought his 80 acres in 1864 and this land remains in the Martin family

today. The abstract records that this 80 acres was conveyed by deed by General Warranty in 1864 for the consideration of \$3,600. William served in the Civil War in Company B of the 107th Illinois Volunteers. William and Jane had six children: Etta May, Oliver Mark, Edgar Otto, Luther M., Winfred Byrum and Manfred Robert.



Chandler Reunion: Lloyd Parr, ———, Bryon Melvin, Geneva Martin, ——— Harlan, Helen Melvin, Lucille Parr, Juanita Martin, ———, Louis Melvin, Lotus Martin. In the background is Lattie Parr.

Edgar Martin and Grace Williams were married in 1892 in the Cisco Methodist Church. Grace was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth Dallas Williams of Cisco. The Williams children were: Clairette Rose, Marion F., twins, Anna Grace, Charles B., John B., Abbie, Maurice G. Lewis Boyd, and Shelby. Edgar and Grace lived on several farms north of Cisco before moving to the Martin family home northwest of Cisco. Edgar taught in the schools of Piatt and Macon Counties. He was president and cashier of Croninger State Bank. After retiring from farming, they moved to Weldon. Children of Edgar and Grace Martin were Elbert, Geneva (Mrs. Roy Campbell), Lotus (Mrs. G. D. Briggs), and Juanita (Mrs. John C. Kriegsmann).

Elbert Martin (1893-1973) married Bertha Cooley (1897- ) in 1918. He joined the Army in 1918 and served in the "Suicide Squad." In 1920 he and Bertha moved to Stringtown Lane, where they lived until they retired to Decatur in 1950. In 1958 they moved to Monticello. Elbert and Bertha had seven children: Elbert Jr. (1918-1938), LaVerne (1920- ), William (1922- ), Bernice (1923- ), Imogene (1927- ), Mary Louise (1932- ), and Joanne (1934- ). LaVerne and Bob Conell have two children. William and Dorothy Musick have two children, Steven Randall (1955- ) and Bonita Kay (1957- ). Bernice and John Anderson's children are David (1947- ), Richard (1949- ), and Barbara (1951), and Diane (1952- ). Imogene and Lonnie Smith's children are Connie Lea (1947- ), twins Michael and Martha (1950- ), and Russell (1952- ). Mary Louise married Louis Oliver and they have three sons and a daughter. Joanne married Willis Nicholson and they have two boys and two girls.



Elbert, Geneva, and Lotus attended Enterprise and Prospect schools. Later Geneva taught at Prospect.

Lotus Martin (1901- ) was born on the farm north of Cisco. Her family moved to the homestead when she was 8 years old. Lotus was taught tatting and knitting by her grandmother Jane. She finished her formal schooling in Decatur. Besides Lotus, other students making the early Monday morning train trip from Cisco to Decatur were Ira McCartney, Ralph Reeves, and Carl Pattengale, all graduating from Decatur High School the same year (*see Briggs history*).

Juanita Martin attended Prospect School, Cisco High School and graduated from Weldon High School and the U. of I. She worked in banking, taught school and assisted her father in business. Juanita married John C. Kriegsman in 1940. They developed a residential area in Pekin, where she is active in church and community affairs. Their children are John Martin, oldest, and Richard, youngest, who are in the Pekin-Peoria area with their father's business, and Jim, who lives in Hong Kong with his wife, Michele.



### Chapman History

Francis Marion Chapman, Jr., of Cerro Gordo, Ill., married Audra E. Weddle in 1920 at Cisco. They were married in the Methodist Parsonage by Rev. Harry Thrall (later Dr. Thrall). The parsonage was later moved to the Homer Doane farm. They had three children.

Ruth LaVonne was born in Cisco. She married Donald Ater and they now live in Ferriday, Louisiana. La Vonne will be the National President of the Cowbells Association in 1975 (*see Ater history*).

Francis Marion Chapman, III, was born in 1922 in Cisco and is living on the family farm. He married Mary Carolyn Parsons of Monticello and they had two children, Francis Mark and Laura Jane. Jane lives in California and Mark farms with his father.

Marilyn Elizabeth Chapman was born at Dalton City in 1927. She married Robert Lieb and they live on a farm near Monticello.

Francis Chapman, Jr. died in 1933. Audra Chapman and family moved back to Cisco in 1936. She retired from farming in 1946 and moved to the Brad Moore estate in Monticello where she resides today. Audra married Rev. L. P. Meyers in 1954.



### Clark

Samuel James Clark was born in Bement, Illinois in 1938, the son of Selby and Lotha Clark. He married Peggy Westray, daughter of Russell and Lucille Westray on August 28, 1960, in Bement.

They moved from Hammond, Illinois to Cisco in August of 1962. Mr. Clark became the 8th grade teacher and coach at Cisco Grade School in September of that same year.

Mr. Clark served as secretary-treasurer to the Cisco Little League, president of the Library Board and is an active member of the Cisco Volunteer Fire Department, PTA and Cisco Town Board.

Mrs. Clark started working at the Cisco School as the school secretary in August of 1966. She is a member of the Cisco Evening Woman's Club and the PTA.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark are the parents of two daughters, Cynthia Lyn (1961), and Angela Beth (1964).



### The Clifton's

James Clifton (1877-1949) was born at Camargo, Ill., a son of the Joseph S. Cliftons. Isabelle Sullivan was born at Cerro Gordo. They were married in 1895 at Newburg, Ill., and had three children: Dottie, Wilmer C. (Buck) and Gilbert. They came to live in Cisco in 1904. His wife "Belle" died in 1935. He then married Minnie Eaton and they had three children: Betty Mae, Mary and Patsy. James operated a blacksmith shop and garage in Cisco for 45 years with the help of Buck. The business was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1944. James then moved his family to Decatur.

Dottie married Evert L. Giesler in 1915. They had two children, James and Maxine (*see Giesler history*).

Gilbert married Effie Austin. They had two children, Robert Dale and Mary. Effie makes her home with Mary in Rantoul. Gilbert later married Ethelda Stratman and they had two sons, Ray and Roy. They



James Clifton, 1949.

lived in Monticello at the time of Gilbert's death in 1958. Their son, Roy, married Donna Hatfield, daughter of Ray and Jennie, and they had a son Steven.

Wilmer C. "Buck" and Vera White were married in 1921 in Cisco. He worked with his father and later for the Cob Company, the Cisco Implement Co. and for International Harvester in Orona, as a mechanic.

They have three children: Wilmer Leon (1922), Jack C. (1924), and Adeline (1938). Both boys are veterans of World War II.

Leon married Helen McKinney, daughter of Harold and Bessie. They have a son Jeffrey. They now live south of town and Leon farms and works at Caterpillar.

Jack married Leora Benjamin, daughter of "Hip" and Lena. They have two children, Diana Lyn and Jack, II. Jack and Leora have been active in the American Legion. He works for Fehrenbach Chevrolet in Decatur and Leora has run a beauty shop in her home for 17 years. Diana Lyn married Richard Hoffman and has one son, Sean. They are living in Cisco. Jack, II, is now a sophomore in pre-med at the University of Illinois. He was named to Who's Who Among High School Students in 1972.

The third child born to Buck and Vera was a daughter, Adeline. She now lives in Chicago.



### *Cloud Family*

Permelia Robinson and Mordecia Cloud married in 1857 in Circleville, Pickaway County, Ohio. They came to Illinois by covered wagon several years later, settling first in DeWitt county near Weldon and on to the Cisco area. There were six children: Mary Elizabeth, David, William, Susie, James and Elmer. In later years all the children moved to Iowa except James and Elmer, who spent their entire life around Cisco.

The family are all deceased. (Elmer was the last of the family). He died in 1971 at the age of 96. Emma Rainey became his wife in 1900—she lived until 1922.



Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Cloud, 1900.

They had two children: Eva married Wayne McCartney, and Earl. Wayne and Eva lived near Cisco, later in Monticello where Wayne died in 1973. There are two grandchildren, Robert McCartney, Indianapolis, and Mrs. Beulah Mattson, Decatur. Eva's brother, Earl Cloud, died in 1931 at the age of 25.



John and Harriet Jimison Clover

### *John Elmer Clover*

In Virginia, Jane Campbell, born in 1820, and John Barton were married and lived for several years. Here three children were born. They decided to "go West" by the way of Kentucky. They often spoke of the "wilds of Kentucky." In Adair County, Mary Jane Barton was added to the family circle. They continued westward into Illinois by the way of Winchester. One last move brought them to Cerro Gordo in 1866. John Barton passed away in 1896. Jane Barton lived for a few years in Cisco in the home of Mary Barton Clover. Later she went to live with a daughter in Jacksonville, where she passed away March 28, 1906 at the age of 86 years and 3 months.

The family history of Israel Clover, has not been well documented. It is known that his father, Emmanuel Clover, came to Illinois from Ohio, settling in the Cisco area. There is little known of Israel's mother other than that her name was Florey. There is a brother David Clover and a sister: also there is mention of a half brother and sister.

Israel Clover (1847-1915) was born in Piatt County and married to Mary Jane Barton Feb. 28, 1867. In 1868 they purchased a small farm one mile south of Cisco. Here John Elmer Clover (1872-1962) was born.

He lived most of his childhood on this farm. On August 1, 1892 he was married to Harriet Jimerson of DeWitt County.

The poor crops, very low farm prices (corn at 10 cents a bushel) convinced him farming was not for him and he moved to Cisco, Illinois, where he lived, with the exception of two years in Iowa. However, he was associated with farming indirectly. He worked

for other farmers at times. He operated the Cisco Grain Elevator during the regimen of Mr. Wm. Kyle and under Albert Leach. At one time he assisted Mr. Joe Williams in the selection and preparation of seed corn.

After Harriet's death he lived alone in his home until his health caused him to enter the Piatt County nursing home.

His remaining children are Blondella Hawver of Concord, California; Russell Clover of Rialto, California; Ruby Leach of Cisco, Illinois; Lillie Leach of Cerro Gordo, Illinois; Mary Nihls of Beecher City, Illinois. There are 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.



### *The John Clow Family*

Mr. and Mrs. John Clow moved into Cisco in the early 30's from their home on Stringtown Lane, north of Cisco. They had five children: Ken, Charles, John, Bernice and Elnora. When they moved to town there were only two children still living at home, Bernice and Elnora.

John and Nettie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 30, 1955 in their home with seventeen of their children and grandchildren present. They lived in this same house until Nettie's death in 1964. John then moved into the Piatt County Nursing Home in 1969. He died in 1971.

Their house was sold to their granddaughter, Mrs. Sue (Duvall) Hall and her husband, Willie. Willie and Sue are still living in the house with their two girls, Chrissie and Kathy. Willie is employed at Superior Welding Co. in Decatur and Sue works at FS Services of Cisco.



Mr. and Mrs. John Clow on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Frank and Annie Coffin

### *Coffin*

Francis Marion (Doc) Coffin and Cynthia Ann Hughes Coffin moved east of Cisco, soon after their marriage to the old Dodd Farm. They cared for Mr. Dodd until his death then inherited one half of the farm.

To this union were born five children: Mrs. James (Jenny) Ensign, Mrs. Jake (Elma) Waggoner, Mrs. Earl (Pearl) Wiggins, Frank who married Lena Wiggins, and Roy who married Alice Reed. There were fifteen grandchildren.

Jake and Elma Coffin Waggoner farmed in the Clinton and Cisco area. To this union were born three children, Lloyd and Myrle deceased, and Dorothy living in the East. Two grandsons survive.

In 1935 they moved to the home place taking care of Elma's mother, Ann Coffin, until she died in 1942. Jake and Elma then moved to their farm south of Argenta. When they retired they moved back to Cisco.

The family was active in the Presbyterian Church. When the church united with the Methodist Church Elma was active in the church and Women's Society.

Jake passed away in 1965. Elma moved to Argenta and passed away in 1970.

Earl and Pearl Coffin Wiggins lived east of Cisco. Earl was killed at a Cisco railroad crossing when delivering milk in Cisco. Pearl later married Harry Williams in Decatur moving to Des Moines, Iowa. After his death Pearl moved to California and is the only surviving member of the family.



Do you remember when hogs were driven down the roads and streets to the stockyards?



### *The Franklin Coffman Family*

Franklin Coffman, the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Swick Coffman came to Piatt County, Illinois from Staunton, Virginia, in a covered wagon with his widowed mother and four brothers.



Franklin married Mary Jane Chance at New Holland, Illinois, where they farmed a while, later coming to the Cisco area. They lived 1 mile west and 1 mile north of Cisco.

Eight of their nine children were born at this homesite. They were Edgar, Louella, Viola, Bertha, Elizabeth, Augusta, Lora Glen, Alva, and Guy. He farmed and did custom threshing and corn shelling along with raising strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries.

The children attended West Cisco School.

He retired from farming and moved to Cisco where he bought the Charles Croninger home. He and his son Guy operated a garage and ran the electric light plant and movie theater.

Mary Jane died in 1919 and Franklin died in 1929.

Edgar married Ida Briggs and lived south of Decatur. They had 3 sons, Gilbert, Eldo, and Everett.

Louella married Andrew Jimerson. He farmed at Cisco and Rossville, Illinois, where she taught school. They adopted a daughter, Helen.

Viola married Charles Doane (*see Doane history*).

Bertha married Earl Bragg. They were divorced.

Elizabeth married Charles Long, a farmer and they had one son, Kenneth.

Augusta married Henry Neiwold, a farmer of New Holland, Illinois, and they had one son, Errol.

Lora Glen married Oscar Jones, a Cisco farmer, who later moved to Rossville.

Alva married Harley Miles (*see Miles history*).

Guy married De Morse Conrad. They had one daughter, Georgia Margaret.



## The Conner Family

Edgar Eugene Connor was born in Deland in 1914, the 12th child of a family of 14 children. His parents, George Luther Connor and Dora Ann Talkington moved to Deland in 1913. George worked as a carpenter, later moving his family to Hammond, where Gene graduated from Hammond High School. Gene married Doris Sullivan and they lived on a farm southwest of Cerro Gordo. In 1940 they moved to Cisco and bought the home of Doris's parents. Gene was manager of the Weldon Lumber Company and later worked for Caterpillar. He was employed at Borg-Warner in Decatur at the time of his death in 1965.

Doris Sullivan Connor was born in 1916, the daughter of Russell and Gladys E. Six Sullivan. Her parents moved to Cisco in 1917. Doris graduated from Cisco High School in 1931. Cisco had only a three year high school at this time and she attended Argenta High School her senior year. She worked for the Cisco Mercantile Company, helped Gene at Weldon Lumber Co. and worked at the Monticello Lumber Co. She also



Doris, Delores, Jon, Gene and Gerald Conner in 1961.

taught accordian in Cisco and the surrounding towns. She currently works at the Circuit Clerk's office in Monticello.

They have three children. All three attended Cisco Grade School and Monticello High School. Gerald Eugene served in the Army and now works for the N & W Railroad Co. He is married to Anna Ellison. Delores Marlene married Vincent Kuetemeyer and is living in Louisiana. They have two children, Gail and Scott. Jon Robert is managing a small used merchandise store in Champaign, Illinois.



## Coon - Ayers Families

Abraham Coon (1772-1855), son of a Revolutionary War soldier, moved his family from Pennsylvania westward thru Ohio to Illinois. He fought in the War of 1812 and arrived in what is now Piatt County in 1849. His sons had already established their homes here as early as 1841. Abraham and his wife, Catherine Hensil (1777-1855), lived with their son, John Henry. There were seven children of this union. Lawrence Coon (1805-1846) was born in Pennsylvania and moved with his parents to Ohio. He married Elizabeth Hubbard and had at least three children. After coming to Piatt County, Lawrence died in 1846. His wife, Elizabeth, then married Emanuel Clover in 1848: they came to live in Willow Branch Township. Elizabeth's great-great-grandson, Larry W. Coon is presently living at the same location.

Mr. E. Clover raised the Coon children: Richard Hensil, Isabell and Lydia. At the death of Abraham in 1855 Lawrence's children each inherited \$12.82½.

Richard (1835-1919) married Deborah Catherine Dodd (1845-1891). She died of pneumonia and he later married Anna Creekmur. His children with Deborah were Sarah and Isreal Taylor Coon.

Isreal Taylor Coon (1865-1937) was born in Piatt County. He married Lucy Amelia Ayres and farmed in Friends Creek Township. He spent many years in a wheel chair and died at the age of 71.

Lucy Amelia Ayers (1869-1939) was a descendant of Walter Sleighter, a farmer of Dutch descent and a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He married Amelia Bullis and seven children were born to this marriage. A daughter, Alzina Sleighter, married Seymour Ayers. They had twelve children. One of these, Andrew Jayerio Ayers, married Mary Susan Hull of Cisco. To this union eight children were born. Andrew purchased the Cisco Hotel in 1887 and ran it for several years. It was sold to Sarah Higgins. Lucy and Isreal's children were: Wayne Hensil, Carl Jess, Wilbur Mayo, Mabel, Margie May, Ruth Ann, and Lawrence Edgar.

Wayne Hensil (1891-1936) married Erma Dooley, a daughter of Thomas and Mary Cornell Dooley. Erma died in childbirth in 1916. Wayne farmed, ran a restaurant and a grocery store in Cisco. After Erma's death he married Hazel Brodson.

Carl Jess (1894-1955) was a farmer. He married Margie Oxley, daughter of John and Cora (Clow) Oxley. A daughter, Ileen Coon, was born to this marriage. Ileen, a life long resident of Cisco, is married to Glenn Vest. They have a son, LeRay. After Margie's death in 1914, Carl married Grace Gisinger. They had three children.

Wilbur Mayo (1897-1959) worked on the home farm for several years before his marriage to Bernice Braden. She was the daughter of Calvin and Mary Braden. Bernice worked in the newspaper office. They married in 1916 and after a brief stay in Detroit, they returned to Cisco where Wilbur helped his brother, Wayne, in farming. Later they moved to Decatur and he worked for Staley's for 38 years. They had two sons.

Mabel (1899-1969) worked at the cream station which was run by her cousin, Hazel Painter. She met Harry Lyons (1896- ) when they both performed in a play given at the Presbyterian Church. The play was entitled "Over the Hill To the Poor House." Mabel and Harry were married in 1922 at the church in Springfield that Abraham Lincoln had attended (see *Lyons history*).



The Coon Family, bottom row: Margie, Taylor, Lucy Ayers Coon, Ruth; top row: Wilbur, Carl, Wayne, Laurence and Mabel.

Margie May (1900-1972) married Ray Mills and had two children, Hershel and Kathryn Virginia. They lived in Cisco for several years and later moved to Clinton, Ill. Margie later married Perry Clary. They resided in Clinton until death.

Ruth Ann (1903-1964) married Walter Kaufman. They farmed for many years east of Argenta, Ill., until retirement when they moved into Argenta. Five children were born to this family. Three sons: LeRoy, Norman, and Harold live in or near Argenta in 1974.

Lawrence (1905-1968) attended Pleasant Ridge, Cisco Grade School and Argenta High School. He was the only one of the family to get a high school education. He married Opal Marie Geer in 1936. Lawrence and Opal lived at the home place north and west of Cisco with Lucy Coon until her death. Opal (1906- ) graduated from Weldon High School. In 1928, she graduated from Jackson Park Hospital, Chicago, Ill., as a registered Nurse. After moving to Cisco she helped in the farming and took care of many neighbors and friends. She later worked for Macon County until retirement in 1970. The children of Lawrence and Opal are Lucia Ann and Larry Wayne, who both graduated from Monticello High School. Lucia (1944- ) married Richard G. Wilkin. They have two sons, Charles Scott and Brian Clark. Larry Wayne (1947- ) is married to Ellen M. Vanderbeck of New Jersey and they have two children, Timothy Shannon and Tamahra Marie. Larry served in the United States Marine Corps and is presently helping Richard in the farming of land near Cisco and Ivesdale.



## Cornell Family

There were members of the Cornell family living in the Cisco area for many years. Names and dates of the first Cornells to move to the area are not known. The earliest date known to be authentic is 1845. Charles Cornell was born near Cisco in 1845. He married Catherine Burns in 1881. They farmed in the Cisco area where four sons and one daughter were born. In 1893 the family moved to Olney, Illinois, but returned to Cisco in 1905. Charles Cornell died in 1912 and his wife in 1921. Cloyd, the first son, homesteaded in North Dakota. He married Lena Erickson in 1911. Twins were born to this union. He died in North Dakota.

Lee married Goldie McArty of the Monticello area in 1915. They were the parents of a daughter, Lelah, and a son, Max. The Lee Cornell family farmed in the Cisco area and then moved to the Argenta area where Lee died in 1932. Goldie taught school in the Argenta area, moving to Cisco, until she went to Tucson, Arizona to make her home with Lelah (Mrs. Wayne Wait). Max married Virginia Mills of Cisco. They have two daughters and are living in Normal, Ill. Goldie died in 1970.

Acy (1886-1942) returned from duty in World War I in time to nurse the Clarence Cornell family through a bout with the flu. In 1919 he married Minnie Higgins of Cisco. They farmed in the Cisco

## Craig Family History



The Clarence Cornell Family, left to right: Jeanette, Clarice, Clarence, Fay and Phyllis.

area. He was Township Highway Commissioner from 1933 until his death. The Agy Cornells had one daughter, Maxine, who married Richard Adams of Weldon, Illinois. Richard and Maxine had one son, Francis. Maxine died while living in Florida.

Clarence (1888-1933) was the first son to be married. He married Fay McAarty, who was teaching school in the Willow Branch area, in 1910. They farmed in the Cisco area and then moved to the village of Cisco. Clarence worked on the highways for a few years and was elected Township Highway Commissioner in 1922. He held this job until his death. Fay died in 1932. Clarence and Fay were the parents of three daughters and one son: Clarice, Mrs. Howard Dresback, taught at Pleasant Ridge; Jeanette, Mrs. J. F. Querry; Phyllis, Mrs. Robert Abner; and Clarence Lyndon, who lived only two months. Jeanette and her husband are the parents of three daughters, grandparents of four boys and three girls. Phyllis and her husband are the parents of a daughter and one son and the grandparents of two girls.

Glenna, the only daughter of Charles and Catherine Cornell and the youngest child, married Elmer Rainey in 1913. They farmed in the Cisco area for more than forty years before retiring and buying a home in Cisco. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1963. Glenna died in 1967. Mr. Rainey is a well known retired farmer still living in Cisco.

Henry and John Cornell were brothers of Charles. Some of their descendants are: Lynn Rainey of the Bement area, Pearl Rainey Stone of Decatur, Ill. (their mother was Nettie Cornell Rainey); Willard Morton, Bement area, Knox Morton, Cerro Gordo (their mother was Alice Cornell Morton); Harold Peck, Monticello, whose mother was known as "Sis" Cornell Peck; and Bertha Winzenberger, Bement, Ill., whose mother was Mrs. Molly Dooley. All of these descendants spent part of their lives in Cisco or Willow Branch Township.



Do you remember the lion hunt at Cisco?

William "Bill" Craig, his wife Mary and son Paul B. moved to the Cisco area from Corydon, Indiana in 1917. In 1918 another son, Forrest T. was born. On February 2, 1929, Bill moved his family to a farm east of Cisco which was owned by Mrs. Anne Melissa Williams. In 1932, he began farming the 320 acres that his son Paul farms.

Paul married Marjorie Ellen Bentley from Bement, Illinois in 1938. In 1941, they moved from Monticello to the tenant farm belonging to Walter Miller. They had three daughters, Karen Lee (1941), Linda Louise (1944) and Paula Jean (1955). Marge passed away in 1971.

Karen married John Tatman Jr. in 1959. They live at White Heath with their children; Margaret Ellen, Jonna Lynn, Karri Louise and Christopher John.

In 1963, Linda married Bruce Jordan of Bement. They live in Monticello where Bruce operates his barber shop.

In 1941, Forrest enlisted in the United States Army where he trained as a radio operator. In 1942 he married Norma Bailey of Decatur and they had one son, Steven born in 1943. On August 10, 1945 Forrest was reported missing in action while serving on board a cargo plane flying over the Hump of Indo-China, one year later he was declared dead. Norma later married Virgil Schroeder of Decatur and she and Steven live there.

In 1950 Bill Craig purchased the Kanode farm southeast of Cisco and Paul moved his family to this farm. Later father and son traded farms and the Paul Craig family moved to the home farm.

In 1957 Mary Louise passed away. In 1959 Bill married Nellie Wiseman of Cisco and moved to town. Bill passed away in 1961.



Bill and Lula Craig in 1947.



The Williams' farm has been the family home of the Craigs for 45 years, and owned by the same family for 138 years. The farm was originally purchased in five sections for \$1.25 an acre from the Federal Land office of Danville by Wm. Stage. It is now owned by Mrs. Charles "Ella Williams" Monfort who now lives in Kirkwood, Missouri.



Mahlon Croninger and Annie Virginia Croninger.

### *Croninger Family*

Peter Croninger, Sr. was of German ancestry, having been born in Pennsylvania and an early settler of Ohio. There were seven children. One of them was Peter, Jr. (1818-1895) born in Pickaway County, Ohio.

Like so many people in those times, in 1839 he came West along with two of his friends and bought some land north of the Sangamon river. The next year he came back to settle. In May of that year, he took as his wife, Cynthia Madden, daughter of Roswald and Martha Marquiss Madden. Peter continued to buy more land, cleared it, raised livestock as well as farming his land. Their son, Mahlon Leonard (1841-1903) helped his father, Peter, Jr.

After Peter Jr.'s frame house burned, they built a two-story brick house. The same year Mahlon Croninger married Annie Virginia Rinehart, daughter of James and Catharine Rinehart.

About 1887 Mahlon organized the Croninger Bank. Later his oldest son Ernest assisted in this business. Land was given by Mahlon for Croninger Cemetery.

Mahlon and Annie raised four children: Ernest (1870-1903), Charles L., Nellie Grace (1875-1910) and Pearley F. (1877-1905). Ernest and Pearley did not marry and lived at home. Nellie married Dr. M. Pattengill and lived in Cisco.

The next history is about Charles L.

Charles Luther Croninger, Sr., was born in Cisco in 1872, the son of Mahlon and Anna V. (Rinehart) Croninger. In 1896 he married Iveye Maud Kyle. He was a farmer, dealer in real estate, and a banker. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. It was here that their children, Harvey, Gracie, and Charles Luther Jr., were born. Gracie died at the age of two.

When Harvey and Charles Jr., were teenagers they moved with their parents to Chicago where Charles, Sr., dealt in real estate, retaining the ownership of farms in central Illinois.

Harvey was married to Caroline Davis, and they lived for a time near Cisco, returning to Chicago.

Charles, Jr., married Wilma J. Tuvell, of Cerro Gordo, in 1922. They lived in Chicago, Cerro Gordo, and in Cisco, and it was in Cerro Gordo that their daughter, Helen Patricia, was born in 1922. Their son, Charles Croninger III was born in 1937 in Chicago. In 1943 he family moved to California.

Charles Croninger, Sr., died in Chicago in 1949, and his wife Iveye moved to California. She died in California in 1953. Her elder son, Harvey, died there in 1948, and Charles, Jr., died in Carson, California, in 1968. His wife Wilma, still resides there.



### *Doane - Cook*

Noble and Samantha Doane, natives of Connecticut, were the parents of 8 children: Annie, Rebecca, Ellen, Fred, Sally, Henry, John and Edwin.

Edwin Doane was born in Circleville, Ohio in 1838. He was a farmer in Ohio till 1871, when he moved to Piatt and bought land in Piatt and Dewitt counties, which he operated until his death in 1910. In 1868, Edwin Doane was married to Nannie E. Shaff, born in Ohio, a daughter of Frederick and Nannie Jordan Shaff, natives of Pennsylvania and Missouri respectively. Edwin and Nannie were the parents of three sons: Claude, who lived in Indiana, Clement Jr., who lived in Dewitt county and Charles who lived in Cisco. Nannie died in 1918.

Charles Doane (1873-1958) married Viola Coffman in February 1896. He served as Willow Branch Highway Commissioner, as a Director of the Croninger State Bank and of the Cisco Cooperative Grain Co; was a member of the Methodist church, and a 50-year Mason. Viola was a Methodist and a Charter Member of Cisco Chapter O. E. S. She was a member of a ladies quartet called, "The Big Four" with Margaret McIntosh, Lavina Weddle and Jennie Miller. Viola died in 1927.

The Charles Doane children were Homer (1897- ) and Eva Nadine (1903- ).

Homer Doane married Gladys Miller in 1918. Homer farmed in Cisco area, retiring in 1962. He is a Charter Member of Piatt County Farm Bureau, Cisco

Masonic Lodge and O. E. S. 849 serving as Worthy Patron five times. They belong to the Cisco United Methodist Church. Gladys is a 50-year Charter member and Past Matron of Cisco O. E. S. 849 and a 50-year member of Cisco Woman's Club. They have three children: Edwin, Marguerite and Maurice.

Edwin, a mail carrier in Decatur, married Lelia Handley in 1941 and have a daughter Deborah Kay. Marguerite married Gilbert Betzer in 1941, an Argenta farmer, who is a plumber in Decatur and also operates a hardware store in Cerro Gordo. Maurice married Irma Hopkins in 1947. He is sales manager of Tryco Agri Mfg. and Irma is an anesthetist at Decatur Memorial Hospital. Their daughter, Patricia Doane Wheaton is an R. N.

Eva Nadine Doane married Harry Edward Cook, son of Clarence Marion and Mary Elizabeth Jordan in 1927. They have two children, Charles Marion Cook and Helen Marie.

Harry Cook was born and raised on a farm in Indiana, before he came to Cisco to work for Harley Miles. Later he became a partner in the Electrical and Plumbing business with his father-in-law, Charles Doane, which he continued until retirement in 1971. After the death of Mr. Doane they farmed the Dewitt county land and bought land in Macon county. Harry and Nadine belong to Cisco United Methodist Church and she is a 50-year Charter Member and Past Matron of Cisco O. E. S. 849.

Charles Marion Cook lives in Monticello. He is employed at Armsworth Appliance Store, is a member of Monticello City Council, is President of Piatt County Historical Society and belongs to the Masonic Lodge. Helen Marie Cook married Essell W. Miller in 1949. They live in Cisco and have four sons: John Douglas, Ronald Eugene, Gary Edward and Terry Wayne. (*Jacob Miller history*)



Charles Doane Family ready for a ride: Nadine, Viola, Homer and Charles.



### *Remember When . . .*

At Thanksgiving time, Elmer Dallas, who had the general store across from the bank would throw turkeys off from the roof of his store for townspeople or whoever was lucky enough to catch one.



"Rip" Dowdle and "Dutch" Cornell with a new road grader in 1930.

### *Dowdle*

Ralph Waldo Dowdle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Port Dowdle was born near Forsythe, Illinois February 19, 1904.

The family moved to the Cisco community when he was about two years old, while engaged in farming.

As a hobby "Rip" has been so interested in playing baseball, at sixteen he was playing with the men's team and continued until he was thirty-seven years of age and was instrumental in building about six diamonds around Cisco.

He was first employed by Willow Branch Township in 1924 under Clarence Cornell, first one-man commissioner elected. He was appointed commissioner and served eighteen years.

He married Helen Sites of Cerro Gordo in 1929.

Rip and Helen retired in 1969, Rip having served a total of thirty-four years with the Township and Helen having taught twenty-five years in Cisco Grade School.



### *Dye Family*

The Charles Dye family moved to Cisco from Campbellsville, Ky., in the spring of 1918. Mrs. Dye was Geneva Brockman. Her father, John Brockman, lived around Cisco for several years. A sister Clara and two brothers, Tandy and Dechard, also lived here several years.

There were three daughters in the Dye family: Alma, Mr. Dye's daughter by a previous marriage, Elizabeth and Dorothy. A son, Robert, lived in Kentucky. A son, James, and daughter, Jeannette, were born in Cisco. The Dyes moved to the property now occupied by Jack Drews. During this time the attempted bank robbery occurred. When Mr. Dye heard an unusual noise that night in this otherwise quiet town, he got up, quickly stepped into the yard. But he was immediately ordered back into his house by a gunman who was patrolling the street north of the bank.

Mrs. Dye died at age 47 in Monticello at the home of her daughter, Jeannette. Mr. Dye then made his home with Dorothy, where he died when 84 years old.

Alma married George Grant and they had five sons and two daughters and lived around Cisco for 15 years. Elizabeth married Lloyd Gisinger of Cisco, had three daughters and later moved to Cerro Gordo. Dorothy married George Mills of Decatur. They still live in Cisco and have a son Michael who married Phyllis Luster. Two sons were born to them: Christopher and Chad. Chad died in infancy. James married Bernice Churchill. They had one son. Later he married Alice Kingligh of St. Paul, Minn., where they still live. Jeannette married Merle Adams of Cisco. They have three children. Merle died suddenly in 1973 while pitching a ballgame in Maroa. Jeannette and the children are in Maroa.



## Francis Edwards

In 1934 Mr. and Mrs. Francis Edwards and Betty came here from Centralia, Illinois and moved to the farm just south of Cisco where they still reside. Also in 1934 Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Edwards (Francis' parents) bought the large white house which adjoins the farm. They came here every summer until his retirement when they moved here to make their home. When Dr. Edwards passed away in 1955, Mrs. Edwards moved back to Centralia to make her home with her daughter Elizabeth.

Betty was married to Robert Evensen of Shabbona, Illinois, and they have four children. They are now living in Appleton, Wisconsin.



The Francis Edwards Turkey Farm.



Did you know Edgar Martin used a hiding place among his beehives on a few occasions when he needed a safe place to keep money overnight?

## The Thomas Edwards Family

The Thomas Edwards family moved from a farm near Forsyth to the Rivard farm northwest of Cisco in 1954. Tom and Bill started the Edwards Farm Supply in that same year in the former site of the west elevator.

In 1960, Thomas, his wife Donna, their son Larry and daughter Valeria, moved to their new home in Cisco. In the spring of 1972, Thomas and Donna realized their long time dream of owning and living on a farm, where they now live north of Milmine.

In 1961, Larry married Martha Johnson, daughter of Wilfred and Edna and lived in Cisco. Larry is employed at Edwards Farm Supply. They have three children: Kimberly Ann, Kevin Thomas and Kristi Lynette. In 1968 they built a new home then in 1972, they moved into the former home of Larry's parents.

Valeria Hollis now lives in Champaign, where she works at the University of Illinois.



## The Ennis Family

The Ennis family originally came from Ireland. There is a town in Claire County, Ireland named "Ennis". They first settled in Maryland, then came to Menard County, Ill., in covered wagons. Handy Ennis came to Piatt County. His first wife was Evaline Houk who died shortly after their first child, James, was born. He later married Martha Jane Houk (sister of Evaline). They lived in the Enterprise neighborhood and later moved to their farm northwest of Cisco. Handy and Jane were married in Pekin, Ill. Their married life was spent around Cisco.

They were active in the community. Their children attended Pleasant Ridge Country School. Jane went out to help in cases of illness and especially where there was a new baby. On Sunday evenings the neighbors would come over to gather around the family organ to sing.

They were the parents of nine children: William, Evaline, Thomas Jefferson (Jeff or T.J.), Mary, Louie, Lee, Handy, Cora and Lester.

James married Arnetta Daves and he became a minister.

William married Estella Rannabarger and had three children: Leta, Orville and Opal.

Evaline married Ollie Martin and had six children: Erma, Gladys, Bernice, Lawrence, Granville and Winfred.

Jeff married Jessie Dresback and had six children: Geneva, Lois, Ava, Arthur, John and Wayne.

Mary married Emery McGinnis and they had one daughter, Zella.

Louie married Carmi Parish and they had three daughters: LaVerne, Ayleen and Juanita.





**William Handy Ennis and his wife, Martha Jane Ennis.**

Lee married Pearl Gaines and they had two daughters, Lenore and Virginia.

Handy married Edith Engle and they had five children: Louis, Leslie, Jane, Mary Louise and a baby boy who died in infancy.

Cora married Clarence Pease and they had seven children: Ennis, twins Everett and Merrit, Winnifred, Phyllis, Handy and Mary Elinor.

Lester married Louise Weilepp and they had one son, Max.

The Ennis children all found their mates from Cisco and the surrounding area. Eventually the families became scattered. Some are now living in Florida, Ontario, Canada, Illinois, Louisiana, Idaho, and Montana. Several grandchildren are still living in Illinois.

William Handy Ennis and Martha Jane are buried in the Ennis family lot in Croninger Cemetery at Cisco.



### *Remember When . . .*

Weddings of the bygone era posed unusual problems such as keeping the flowers during cold weather. This really happened — the wedding flowers were purchased in Decatur and on the cold trip home in a buggy they froze, so the flowers were placed in a cold upstairs bedroom where they stayed frozen until just before the wedding. That way they did not turn dark.



### *John S. Eubank Family*

John S. Eubank was born near Somerset, Kentucky in 1853. He came to Illinois with his parents, James and Nancy Ann Spencer Eubank when he was three years of age. They located about six miles southwest of Cisco.

He married Mary Alice McGuffey on March 19, 1891. In 1898 Mr. Eubank and his family moved into Cisco, where he spent the rest of his life. There were ten children born to this union: Lettie, Dorsie, Leapha, Jack, Ernst, Velma, Clifford, Leora, Opal and Elwin. Mr. Eubank was a carpenter by trade.

## *Evey*

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Evey were the parents of twins Franklin Pierce and William McKinley (better known as Frank and Mac), Samuel, Ernest, Rolla (who died as a young man), Stephen Douglas (Doug), Roxanna (married James Greenfield), and Ella (married William Wallace).

Douglas married Blondella Jimerson (Della) and they had one son, Elmer O. Douglas farmed northwest of Cisco till 1912, when Elmer married Grace Lichtenberger and they made their home on the farm. Douglas retired to Cisco, but later when his wife died in their family home, he lived with his son and family back on the Evey homelace.

Elmer had four daughters, Evelyn, Dorothy, Phyllis Eileen (died in infancy), and LaVerne.

When Elmer died at the age of 59, Douglas lived with his granddaughter, Dorothy, till his death, lacking just one month of being 90 years old.

Grace Evey Obermiller is living at the DeWitt County Nursing Home at Hallsville. Evelyn married Ralph Mintun. They had one son, Paul Ralph. She has taught in the DeLand-Weldon School Unit since 1952. Dorothy (deceased), married Melvin Long. Their children were Phyllis Anne, Phillip and Larry.

LaVerne married John Followell, Jr. They have two sons, Kenneth and John.



## *Frye History*

The Fries came originally from Germany in the early 1800's, settling in Ohio. Jonathon Frye (1829-1924) was born in Ohio, and married Rebecca Newton.

Several years after the Civil War, Jonathon and Rebecca came from Ohio in a covered wagon to Louisville, Illinois. They raised their family of seven children.

One of these children, James Newton Frye (1870-1950), was united in marriage in 1891 to Ollie Blair. To them were born eight daughters and three sons: Iva Cloe, Dollie Mae, Sarah, Retta Evelyn, Rachel, Ruth, Orville Pear, Nellie Edith, Gladys Mildred, Charles Dale, and James Newton, Jr.

When the family was still quite young, James came to the Central Illinois area. He noticed the better quality of ground, and decided to move to Tolona. When James' first wife passed away he returned to Louisville and married Allie Fender Pointer. James' younger children stayed in the Central Illinois area with their older sisters so Orville Frye was in the Monticello area when he was about 19 years of age and married Katherine Harper in 1925. The Harpers are a pioneer family who settled in Piatt County in the early 1800's.

Orville and Katheryn Frye first settled in Piatt County, renting farms in several different locations. One interesting note on their early years in Piatt County, Orville won the County Championship for

corn husking in 1936 and again in 1940. His picking average was more than 40 bushels for an 80 minute period.

The family moved to Cisco in 1948 and stayed for 23 years. During this time their descendants grew to 15 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They moved to the Clint Harper home place (Katheryn's father) in 1972 and Orville retired from farming. Katheryn passed away in 1973 at the age of 65.

Six children were born to Orville and Katheryn. Two died in infancy. The others are: Margaret, who married Eugene (Cotton) Wright in 1946 and they are the parents of five children.

Harold married Betty Fombelle in 1948. Their children are Greg, Susan and Cindy.

Orville (Toby) married Ellen Umbarger in 1951. Their family consists of three boys: Jerry, Randy and Tim.

Kenneth married Janet Jones in 1954. They lived in Cisco about seven years and now live on the "Old Waggoner Farm". Their children are Vicki, Linda, Kenny David and Kevin Michael.



## Giesler History

Evert Giesler (1884-1967), a son of Albert James and Sarah Carter Giesler, came to Cisco in 1914 from Iowa, working on a dredge boat constructing the section ditch north of Cisco.

Evert and Dottie (1887- ) met and married in 1915. He worked for various places in Cisco before owning and operating a pool hall.

He became postmaster on April 16, 1949. They have two children, a son James and a daughter Maxine.

James married Jean Cain. They lived in Cisco until 1973 when they moved to Bement. Prior to moving to Bement he was rural mail carrier for the Cisco area. He is now mail carrier for Bement and Cisco.

They have three children. Jim, their eldest, is employed at Caterpillar in Decatur. Janice married Lee Bensyl. Her husband, Lee, is a state trooper. They have one son, Rodney Lee. Jerry, their youngest, is attending college in Bloomington.

Evert and Dottie's daughter married Donald McKinley, who at that time managed the Wilkinson Lumber Co. in Cisco. He then managed a lumber company in Argenta until he bought the IGA grocery store in Cisco. They sold out in 1972 and now own a Gambles Hardware and Appliance store in Mt. Zion.

They have two children. Their eldest is Roger who is married to Carol Parrish Rogers. They have two daughters.

He is employed at Caterpillar in Decatur.

Their daughter married Robert Chumbley. Paula owns and operates the Village Boutique beauty salon in Cisco. They have one daughter, Lynley Dawn.

## History of Gisinger Family

Four Gisinger brothers, Daniel, Jacob, John and Samuel, arrived by boat in 1750 from Germany and settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Samuel had a son Abraham. Abraham had a family of four sons, George, John, Phillip and Samuel.

Phillip Gisinger (1833-1873). To Phillip and his wife Elizabeth were born the following children: Simon, Amney Ann, Mary Eve, Joseph, Hannah Rebecca, John, Seymour, Cindorilia, Phillip, and Sarah Jane.

Phillip and his family lived on a farm southeast of Cisco.

Simon and Mary Gisinger moved into Cisco in 1895, moving from a farm. They had seven children: Edith, Arthur, Phillip, Myrtle, Ansel, Grace and Ferrill (Johnny).

Mr. Simon Gisinger, when first coming to town, operated threshing machines and corn shellers. He later ran a grocery store and meat market with his son Phillip. They later ran a restaurant. About 1916 he went with the telephone company which was known as The Standard Telephone Company. He managed the office and was the night operator for many years.

Probably one of the most memorable nights was the night that Croniger Bank was robbed next door to the telephone office. He heard the noise of the safe being blown and got out of bed to see what was going on and in doing so bumped a chair and made a noise. Two shots were fired into the office and someone on the outside told him to get back in bed and stay there. Mrs. Goldie Gisinger heard the shots and noise uptown. She awakened her husband Ansel, who went next door to his mother's home. They tried to phone Simon at the telephone office and got no answer. Ansel walked to town carrying a lantern to see if his Father was alright. When he got up town the robbers had disappeared, but smoke was still coming from the bank building. Other people had gathered on the streets, including Scott Armsworth, Earl Rannebarger, Perry Briggs, Dewey Briggs and Carl Duncan.



Simon Gisinger Family, back row: Mary Jane, Simon, Edith, Phillip, Arthur; seated: Myrtle, Ansel, Grace and Ferrill.

Phillip was married to Anna Hott. They had three children, Renard, Mary and Emma. Anna died and Phillip later married Hattie Saltgaver, and a son Nyle was born to them.

Edith was married to Jesse Carver and they lived in Decatur.

Arthur married Tabitha Ellen Edwards. They lived in Cisco until 1944 when they moved to Cerro Gordo with Lloyd Gisinger and his family. They had no children but raised Lloyd (Ansel's son). Arthur and Ansel also ran corn shellers and threshing machines. They also worked in the grain elevators of Cisco.

Myrtle was married to Harry Mintun. They had one son, Ralph.

Ansel was married to Goldie Edwards and they had a family of nine children: Lloyd, Laurence, Lynn, Lorin, Beulah, Mary, Lewis (Bill), Lora Mae (Toone), and Edith (Dolly).

Grace was married to Carl Coon and their family consisted of three children, Donald, Helen and Paul.

Ferrill (Johnny) was married to Cloa Higgins and they had four children. Dale, who was killed in World War II, Lucille, Pauline and Ray.

Ansel and his sons Lloyd and Lynn worked in the Ford Garage owned by Scott Armsworth. In 1944, after Mr. Armsworth's death, Lloyd and Ansel bought the contents of the garage and shop equipment, obtained a Ford Contract, and moved the garage to Cerro Gordo. The garage has been a family business with Ansel, Lloyd, Lloyd's wife (Elizabeth), Laurence and Lynn having operated it for thirty years Feb. 14, 1974.

Grace and Ansel are the only surviving children of the Simon Gisinger family.

### *Remember When . . .*

On Halloween night the farm boys would all come to Cisco to do their thing. They rode mules and horses which they tied up to the hitching rack across from Jefford's Hardware Store. One of the tricks I will not forget was when the Claude Stine boys poured sorghum molasses on the saddles.

## *John Goken*

John Goken, son of Goke and Grace Goken, was born in Rysum, Germany in 1874 and came to the United States in 1884 on a ship named "America" with his parents and family. There were six children in the family: Mender, John, Ben, Goke, Jennie and Grace. They came to Illinois and settled northeast of Cisco. The father died shortly after coming to Piatt County, leaving the mother to raise the family, but with the help of the children they managed to make a living. They later moved to DeLand to make their home.

John Goken married Ordella Royse, a daughter of George and Mary Royse February 14, 1900 and started farming northeast of Cisco. Here Geneva Goken

Huisinga was born. They moved to the George Royse farm, where Oressa Goken McQueen was born. Mr. Goken and his family were members of the Enterprise Methodist Church, later moving their membership to the Cisco Methodist Church. He was a member of the board of Trustees at the Enterprise and Cisco Methodist Churches. He was a director of the Cisco Grain Company. Mr. Goken died in 1930. Bert and Geneva Goken Huisinga moved to the George Royse farm in 1931 from the John Goken farm north of Cisco, when Ordella Goken decided to move to Monticello. She died in 1951. Bert and Geneva lived there until their son, Dale, was married, then moved a half mile east.

## *William A. Goken*

William A. Goken (1885-1952) known by everyone as "Bill" was born northwest of Cisco in 1885. He was the son of Berend and Alveta Goken, with five brothers and one sister. Berend, who came from Germany, and Alveta were married March 12, 1878 at the Presbyterian Church in Cisco. The family outgrew the first house on the farm, so they moved to a larger house on Stringtown Lane on the same farm. This is the house the family calls the old home place. Years later Bill's parents moved to Argenta and Bill took over the farming.



Owen and Angellna Westbay, 1921.

Bill drove his horse, Colonel, to court Elsie A. Wilson, daughter of John and Ida Wilson. Ida Wilson was the daughter of Owen and Angeline Westbay, who lived in Cisco for many years. Bill and Elsie were married in 1910. They had two sons, William Lee (1911- ) and Owen Edward (1915- ), who went to Pleasant Ridge School. Here is where Owen got the nickname "Shorty". Both boys went through their junior year at Cisco, then graduating from Argenta. Following the boys graduation, Bill and Elsie moved to the brick home of Bud Kistler west of Cisco for twelve years before retiring to their home in Decatur. Finding time on his hands, Bill worked at David's Food Market. Elsie and her mother did clothing alterations and fancy work until they died; Ida Wilson in 1960 and Elsie Goken in 1973.



Owen married Mable L. White of Argenta in 1934. They have two children, Marita and Richard, and five grandchildren. Lee Goken married Minnie Sheipe of Toledo, Ill., in 1934. They have one son, Garold Lee and three grandchildren.



William Goken Family, back row: William and Elsie; front row: Lee, Ida Wilson, and Owen.

### *Hamilton-Huffmaster*

John W. Hamilton (1847-1930) married Miliah Hinson Cain (1844-1898), a widow. She had a daughter, Nellie, who married Edward Huston. John and Miliah had one daughter, Prudie (1880-1968). She grew up on the farm north of Cisco. In 1918 she bought a Saxon roadster, which delighted her to drive. Prudie was active in the Presbyterian Church, then later in the Methodist Church. She belonged to the Woman's Club and the North Birthday Club. She was a very witty person and could make the French Harp talk. In 1930 she married Wallace Huffmaster (1879-1954). They lived on her home farm for a few years, then moved to a new home in Cisco.



Prudie Hamilton Huffmaster

### *The Hardwick Family*

Ed Hardwick, Jr., was born in 1923 in Somerset, Kentucky. Part of the farm on which they lived was where one of the battles of the Civil War was fought. In farming the land he found many articles from the War. Twelve miles north of the farm a second battle was fought where over one hundred and forty men plus a General Zollie Coffey were all buried in one grave.

In 1939 he moved to Nancy, Kentucky where he met and married Ruby Dalton in 1941. They have three children: Elizabeth Ann, Betty Marie and Margaret Kay. They moved to Cisco in 1955. All three girls graduated from Cisco Grade and Monticello High School. Ruby now works for the Kirby Hospital Annex and Ed began working at the Cisco Grade School in 1958 and is also a Knapp Shoe Counselor. Ann married Bob Burton and they have two children and reside west of Shelbyville. Betty married Karl Harper and has one daughter. They live in Bement. Kay married Ernie Woodrum. They live in Mt. Zion and have two children.



### *The Hatfield's*

Oliver Hatfield (1894-1967) was born in Jabez, Kentucky. He married Iola Johnson in 1912 in Kentucky. They were the parents of three sons. They moved to the Cisco area in 1921. Oliver farmed for Roy Campbell for approximately 12 years. They later moved to Gibson City and then to Rockford where Iola still lives.

Ray Hatfield was born in Shelbyville, Ind., and now resides in Cisco. He has operated his used car business in Cisco since 1936. He married Jennie Seaton, daughter of Claude and Inez Seaton. They had two children: Donna R. and Ronald Lee. Jennie Hatfield died in 1968 and Ray later married Nell Evans. Donna R. married Roy Clifton and they have one son, Stephen Roy. She is now married to James J. Marshall and has a daughter, Jennifer Louise. Ronald Lee is employed by the Monticello School District and serves as maintenance man at the Cisco Water Dept. He married Rita Boyer Bliss in 1966 and has one step-daughter, Veronica (Ronki) Bliss. Rita is employed as a clerk at the Cisco Post Office.

Charles Hatfield married Marge Holfredder and had two sons, Charles and Billy. He later married Mary and had one son, Mark.

Paul Hatfield married Joy Brennan and has five children: Jackie, Paul Dean, Jerry, Janice and Joan.



### *The Heidkamp Family*

Margaret Wiegard Heidkamp (Mrs. Fred), originally from Modoc, Illinois moved to Cisco in 1955 with six of her seven children. (Loretta was married in 1954 to R. K. Whitlow.) The Heidkamp family resided in the two-story white house owned by Edward Ashton until 1959 when the family built a new home.

In 1962, Betty was married to Dale D. Leach of Monticello. They still reside there with their three daughters, Cynthia, Teresa and Nicole.

Del, Bob and Ed are employed at Caterpillar. Joyce is employed in the business department at Monticello High School.

In 1969 Bob married Nancy Swikle. They live east of Cisco.

In 1970 Peg married Ronnie D. Parsons of Monticello. Peg was employed as an elementary physical education teacher in the Monticello Unit. Ron is employed as cable splicer for the General Telephone Co. Their daughter is Jennifer Margaret (1973).



## Hendrix

John Milaneous Hendrix (1829-1905) married Mary D. Black (1828-1920) in 1849 in Tennessee. In 1855 they moved to Arkansas, where he was joined by his parents, brothers and sisters. In 1864 he moved to Macon County, Illinois. The story is that he was a spy for the north, living in the south, so the time came to move north. The family has a lock which was broken off the barn door where his horses were kept. In 1869 he bought a farm in DeWitt County, one mile west of where Shiloh Church stands. Their children were William Henry, John Westly, James Milford, Theopolis, Sarah Francis Hendrix Nelson, Celia Ann Hendrix East, Benjamin, Minerva Ann Hendrix Cramer, Mary Emma Hendrix Hardin, Joseph Edward and Nellie May. The three oldest were born in Madison County, Tennessee. The three younger were born in Illinois, and the others in White County, Arkansas.

James Milford Hendrix (1854-1929) married Melina Elizabeth Massey (1858-1937) in 1875. Melina Elizabeth was the oldest daughter of Jacob A. and Lucy Allen Masssy. Her brothers and sisters are George T., John L., Ida Coffman, Lucy Evans, Jacob A., James F., and William. Jim and Melina had two children, Mellie (1878-1969) and Arthur James (1882-1940). Mellie was born in DeWitt County and Art was born where Jim and Melina established their home 3½ miles northwest of Cisco. The farm was made by many purchases, the first being in 1879. James raised, fed and shipped cattle, as well as farming. While dynamiting a tree, James Milford lost his sight about 1909, so they moved to Argenta. He requested that Mellie and her husband, Earl V. Rannebarger, move from their farm southeast of Croninger Bridge to her home place. The part of Friend's Creek Regional Conservation District Park, where the picnic, camping, etc. area is, was part of this farm until taken over by the Macon County Conservation District.

Arthur J. Hendrix married Opal Reeser (1887-1967) in 1907. Their children were Mabel Laurine, Lucille Mellie, Dortha Irene, Pauline Freida and James Edward. Mabel and Milburn Parrish have two children. Lucille married Wayne Walker, who is deceased. Dortha married Fon Moore and they had

two sons. Fon and Fon, Jr., were killed in an auto accident. Pauline and Michael Mulligan have three children. James and Alberta have two boys. Art and Opal's children were all born in Macon County. Lucille and Dorothy live in California and the others live in Colorado.

Mellie married Earl V. Rannebarger and they had two sons, Ray and Ralph (*see Rannebarger history*).



James M. and Melina Elizabeth Massey Hendrix, Earl Rannebarger, Arthur Hendrix and Mellie Hendrix Rannebarger in front of Mellie's home place.



## Hiser

Gerald Hiser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hiser, and Juetta Schroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Scholl of Forsyth, were married in 1937 and moved in the spring of 1938 to a farm one mile west of Cisco (known as the Coffman farm) where they still reside.

Homer Hiser had purchased the farm in 1935 from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parr and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weillepp.

Gerald and Juetta have one son, Loren (1941- ). Loren married Melinda J. Grider on October 6, 1963 and they reside with their two daughters Tamara Kaye and Nancy Ann in Oreana, Illinois. Loren is employed at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Decatur.

Gerald and Juetta have been active in the work of the United Methodist Church and other community activities throughout the years.

Gerald is serving on the board of the Cisco Elevator.



Remember the treasure hunts the young people had? Clues were placed at different points in the community and the couples went in their cars and looked for them. When they were all found there was a prize for the winners. Refreshments were usually served at the restaurant owned by Frank Lyons.

## *The Hoffman Family*

Frank P. Hoffman (1875-1954) was born in Camden, Ohio. He came to Illinois when he was 18 years old and worked for Robert Allerton. He later farmed some of his land. Frank met and married Mary Rudisill (1872-1935) daughter of Marion Rudisill. She had four brothers, Jake and Joe, John and a twin brother Boman, two sisters Lydia Varner and Sara McDevitt. Frank and Mary had two sons, Carlos and Roland. Frank married Eula Vaughn in March 1937, she died in 1951. Frank Hoffman lived on or near Stringtown Lane for 45 years.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoffman and son Carlos in the baby seat.

Carlos Hoffman (1900- ) lives in Monticello with his wife Leila (Dolly) Welch Hoffman. They have three children: Mrs. Fenimore (Marion) Buchanan, Mrs. Helen Summers, and Charles.

Roland Hoffman (1906- ) was born in the brick house southeast of Cisco. He married Edith Heckman of Cerro Gordo in March of 1927. She was born in 1907 to Elmer Heckman (son of Daniel Heckman) and Mary Etta Peck (raised by Willis Armsworth) of Cerro Gordo. Roland and Edith have three children.

Harold Eugene (1927- ) married Norma Jean Cook of Taylorville. They have four children: Debbie, Randy, Rick and Ronnie.

Mary Hoffman (1929- ) married Robert Catlin of Monticello. They have four children: Steve, Cindy, David and Gregg. Robert works at General Cable in Monticello. Mary and Cindy operate the Boka Shoppe in Monticello.

Frank Hoffman (1932- ) married Florence Kraft of Monticello. They have three sons, Scott, Jeff and Dennis.

All of the Hoffman grandchildren have attended Cisco Grade School. Roland retired in 1973 from farming. Eugene and Frank now live on University farm number one and farm together.



Remember the night that Pete Benjamin, Jerry Wiseman, Raymond Pirtle and Earl Brame rode on the chassis of a car and hit the bridge east of town while on a Treasure Hunt? No one was hurt and they continued in the game.

## *Glenn Howard Family*

In 1941 Glenn and Catherine Howard and four children, Evelyn, Ronald, John and Gregory came to Cisco to help Glenn's uncle with the farming on a Pattengill farm south of Cisco. In 1950 Ralph was born. The children all graduated from Cisco Grade School and Monticello High School.

After leaving the farm in 1952 Glen was employed by Picture-Craft in Decatur, Ill., for about ten years. Glenn was appointed in 1972 to fill the vacancy of Town Clerk upon the death of Jerry Sites. He was elected Town Clerk in April 1973.

When first moving to Cisco, Glenn sang in the choir of the Methodist Church and was associated with quartettes in and around Cisco. He is Past Master of Cisco Lodge and a member of the Bloomington Consistory and a member of the Shrine Chanters.

Catherine (Kate) is a Court Reporter in Piatt County, a member of Eastern Star of Argenta and Glenn and Kate are both members of the Methodist Church. Evelyn Howard VanDercook, Jr., lives in Washington, D. C., Ronald in Maryland, John in Springfield, Ill., Gregory in Maryland, and Ralph in Monticello, Ill. There are seven grandchildren.



## *The Jenkin's Family*

We were married in Springfield by Rev. Hildegard in 1925. We lived in Decatur, Ill., and then moved to our farm in Shelby County where we stayed until 1943. We then went to Mooseheart to work as house parents.

In 1946, we bought our home here in Cisco. Harvey worked for the Miller Bus Service as a School Bus Driver for 17 years until his health failed and he retired.

Harvey was born in Sullivan, Ill. He was a World War I vet.

We have one daughter, Eloise Martin. She has five children. Sandra, our first granddaughter, spent a lot of time here with us. In 1947, we took two foster sons, Joe and Paul Knupp. They both graduated from Monticello High School. Joe and his family live in Chicago, Ill., and Paul and his wife and daughter live in Wisconsin.

Harvey passed away in 1962.

Mrs. Harvey (Alta) Jenkins



## *Johnson - Isenburg*

The William D. and Louise Walter Johnson family moved to Cisco from St. Louis, Missouri in 1919. They lived on one of the Pattengill farms and worked for Thomas Sago. Mr. Johnson was Mrs. Minnie Sago's brother. Two years later they moved near LaPlace and



farmed there for four years. Returning to Cisco they settled on the Pattengill farm now occupied by the James Burns family. Mr. Johnson died in 1927.

The family had six children, Wilfred, Loren, who died while living in St. Louis; Emmett of Argenta; Mary McGillivray, Cary, Illinois; Edward who lives with his mother in Cisco; Emma Lou Bilbrey, Cisco.

Mrs. Johnson remarried Wm. Isenburg in 1929. She has one son, Wm. Isenburg, Jr., who, a Lieutenant Commander of the United States Navy, lives in Virginia.

John Wilfred Johnson married Edna Blickenstaff of Cerro Gordo in 1930.

Wilfred and family farmed for several years. Later the Johnson family moved to Cisco by the quonset garage where Wilfred ran a repair shop for farm machinery, cars and trucks. He sold Case farm machinery and International trucks. In 1970 he purchased the Shell service station.

The couple have four children. Lenita Madden Sheese, who lives in Terre Haute, Indiana. Donald, lives in Nashville where he will graduate from Baptist Bible College in May 1974 and enter into active ministry. Martha Edwards married Larry Edwards. Eugene and family live in South Elgin, Illinois. Wilfred and Edna have eleven grandchildren.



### *Mr. and Mrs. John Kendall*

Mr. and Mrs. John Kendall moved to the Cisco area from Decatur, Ill., in 1934, on the Tom Miller farm.

Mr. Kendall worked as an engineer for the Wabash Railroad until his retirement in 1951. He passed away in 1968.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendall are parents of two boys, Ardath and Harold. Both boys served in World War II.



Ethel and John Kendall

Ardath C. Kendall and Dorothy L. Whisnant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah G. Whisnant, Argenta, Ill., were married in 1946 and lived in Argenta until moving to the George Parr farm in 1950, which is located in the Cisco Fire District. This farm would be remembered by many Cisco residents as the former residence of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kistler.

Mr. and Mrs. Ardath Kendall are the parents of three sons: Ardath Dean, Ronald and John who attended Argenta schools and graduated from Argenta High School.

Having lived in the Argenta School District, we have participated in more of Argenta activities than Cisco naturally. However, as we look back through the 23 years we have lived here, we can remember many pleasant dealings with Cisco folks, such as taking the boys to Clarks Barbershop, shopping at Weddles Grocery, Armsworth Hardware, McKinley Lumber Yard, Johnson's Garage, Leora's Beauty Shop, Clem's Seed Co. and still enjoying all the folks at Cisco Elevator Co., where we sell all our grain.

Harold married Jean Walker, in December 1942, and they have lived in Argenta-Decatur area until moving to Florida. They are parents of three children.

Mrs. John Kendall still resides on the farm.



John W. Kingston

### *Kingston's Centennial Farm*

John Wesley Kingston (1827- ) was born in Peoria County. His parents were George (came from Ireland) and Susan Miller Kingston. John Wesley married Sarah M. Bunting (1832- ) in 1852. They had seven children: Sarah Rosie, Susan, George W., John, Ansel, Ellis and Virginia. They moved to Piatt County in 1867. John W. and Sara Kingston bought the Centennial farm, 80 acres, in 1871 when he bought 200 acres for \$22.00 per acre. John Wesley gave this 80 acres to his oldest son, George Wesley. George and Mary Ann, his wife, had five children: Alva, Dora, Bertha, Ray and Carl. When George and Mary Ann died, Carl was willed the 80 acres, where he lived all his 69 years.

Carl and his wife, Ruby, were married nearly fifty years when he died. They had three sons: Corwin, graduated from the U. of I. and was in the Army; Franklin, who served in the Army and farms; and Robert is a draftsman. All graduated from Weldon High School. Carl Kingston's wife, Ruby, lives on the Centennial farm and her son, Franklin, farms it. A grandson, Kevin, has worked on this farm, making five generations to work on this farm. There are five grandchildren.

John Wesley Kingston (father,) George Wesley (son), and Carl (grandson) served as directors of Enterprise Grade School.



### *Remember When . . .*

Did you know the early high school basketball teams practiced outdoors?



Tom and Geneva Kistler

### *Kistler Family*

Mr. Lewis E. "Bud" Kistler was born near Chillicothe, Ohio in 1855. He came overland to Illinois in a covered wagon with his parents when a small boy. They settled on what was known as the Van Trees place, which is about halfway between Cisco and Argenta. This was later purchased by "Bud" Kistler.

"Bud" Kistler married Mary "Mollie" Piper in 1878. She was born in Decatur in 1862. They had six children, Byron passing away in 1941, Bert in 1938, Tom in 1954, Inez in 1967, Bess in 1971, and Margaret now living in Charleston, Illinois.

Bess lived in Cisco all her life and was married to C. W. Hitchens who died in 1951. Mrs. Hitchens helped organize the Willow Branch Township Library and served 28 years as their librarian. They had no children.

Tom lived around Cisco all of his life. He married Geneva Peck from Cerro Gordo, Ill. in 1909, Geneva passing away in 1955. They had two children, Ruth and Evelyn. Ruth lives at Hudson, Ill. Evelyn married Harold A. McIntyre and still resides in Cisco. Evelyn and Harold had one daughter, Karen, who married Ronald Mull and lives in Cerro Gordo, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Kister purchased a home in Cisco and moved into town in the early 1920's, Mr. Kistler passing away in 1936 and Mrs. Kistler in 1938.



### *Leach Brothers*

Walter Leach (1886-1970) came to Cisco from St. Elmo in 1909 and husked corn for Louis Kreger. He returned each fall to husk corn until 1916, when he came here to stay. He worked for farmers around Cisco including P. C. Young, Bud Kistler and Warren Ater. He got his call to go into service in 1918. He went from Monticello with a group of 100 Piatt County men. He was sent to France and was on a hike to the front when peace was signed. He was in the Army of Occupation and returned to Cisco in October 1919. In 1920 he married Ruby Clover. They went to live on the P. C. Young farm south of Cisco, where their daughter, Lucille was born. After a year, they moved to the Fred McIntosh place north of Cisco, later moving to the Charles Parr farm south of Cisco. They rented the Bill Grove farm and moved to Cerro Gordo. After farming in the Cerro Gordo vicinity for thirty years, they retired to Cisco in 1958. and moved into his brother Charlie's home. Lucille Leach married Donald Churchill in Louisville, Kentucky, where they were working in a defense plant. They moved to Chicago and there, their three children were born; Shelia, a nurse, Donald, a teacher, and Douglas.

Otto (Dollie) Leach came to Cisco in 1907. His first job was on the farm of Lou Kreger. He worked for various farmers, among them P. C. Young and Reed Barnhart. Later he worked at the elevator for Reed until he entered military service in 1918. He was in the Battles of St. Mihiel, Meuse Argonne and the Defensive Sector, returning in 1919. Dollie married Lillie E. Clover in 1920, brothers marrying sisters on the same day. Dollie rented the Jessie Young farm then the P. C. Young farm, in 1928 he rented the C. R. Grove farm southeast of Milmine, farming there for 32 years. They retired to their property in Cerro Gordo, where he lived until his death in 1972.

Charlie Grover Leach came to Cisco in 1916. He worked on several farms in the area until 1920, except for the time he served in the army during World War I. He then worked as a clerk in the Coffin General Store until January 1924. At this time he and W. Reed Barnhart formed a partnership and bought the store. It was known as the Barnhart and Leach General Store and was located in the building that now is occupied by Bud's Antiques. In 1942 he was hired as the grade school custodian. A position he held until his death in 1958.

## Leischner History



The Leach brothers: Walter, Breck, "Dolly", Charlie, and "Tom."

In September, 1922 he was married to Ruth Alice Pattengale, daughter of King and Anna Elizabeth Pattengale. They had two children Robert Forrest and Martha Jeanne. Robert married Lucille Hoheratt of Osborne, Kansas, where they live. They have four children, Bill, Jim, Mary Anne and Don. Martha Jeanne, a graduate nurse, married Victor Hogan of Dalton City. They reside at DeLand and have six children, Vicki, Steve, Jeff, Tim, Kristi and Kerry.

Albert Von (Tom) Leach (1899-1950) came to Cisco sometime after the death of his parents, James Miner (1851-1915) and Mary C. (1860-1911), joining his brothers Charlie, Walter and Otto. He worked with his brothers and farmed in partnership with Walter. He served as a grain buyer for Evans Grain company in 1925 at Cisco, Forsythe, Moweaqua, coming back to Cisco in 1929. After the Evans elevator burned he was transferred to Oreana, then to Radford in 1943.

Tom married Opal Royse (1902-1967), daughter of John Aaron and Helena Bruns Royse, in 1928. In 1930 their son, Thomas Royce Leach, was born. Opal had been active in the Enterprise and Cisco Methodist Church before her marriage. She taught school before marriage and after Tom's sudden death. She was the first teacher to die in service of the Argenta-Oreana School District. Royce graduated from Yale and is a stock broker in Chicago.



### *Do You Remember . . .*

When the Armistice was signed in year 1918 they had a three-day celebration. Barbecue pits were dug in the school yard for barbecuing. William Stillabower who had the butcher shop in Cisco, took charge of the butchering and Mack Ashton did the barbecuing.

The farm of James H. Leischner has an interesting history all its own. The original area of the farm was in two separate tracts of land. One section was obtained in 1837 from the United States Government by Philo Hale. By 1840 the William Madden family bought the land. This section was left to his heirs. Later it was sold to Michael and Hattie Shaff in 1922.

The second section was purchased by Charles Carpenter in 1849. This was sold to Lytle and Clarissa Faurete. They sold to William Madden in 1852. It too was left to the heirs of William Madden. In 1859 the land was divided into five separate tracts of 15½ acres for each of the five Madden children. The remainder of the land went to his widow. In 1909 Michael Shaff owned the full 102 acre tract of land. Before he had obtained it all, it had passed through many hands, sold several times for taxes, and even traded between brothers without legal registration of it being traded (one tract of 15½ acres for another tract of 15½ acres). Michael Shaff had to buy each 15½ acre tract separately and straighten out lines of each by buying other land adjacent to the property, and correcting registration of transaction not recorded. Finally he had the correct acres of 102.

These people have owned the Leischner farm: Philo Hale, Chester Carpenter, Lytle and Clarissa Faurete, William Madden and wife, John T. Madden, Francis M. and Lydia Madden, William W. Madden, Cynthia A. Madden, James N. and Melinda Madden, Mary J. Madden, Sarah A. and John Hallstad, Nicholas H. Devore, Stephen and Almini Huifines, Wm. W. and Grace Madden, Israel and Mary Jane Clover, Emmanuel Clover, Rachel and Samuel Havelly, Henry V. Moore, Ella F. Reason and four children, Martin P. and Mary P. Murphy, Michael and Hattie Shaff, Laura B. and George W. Denning, Emma G. Chamberlin, Mary Chamberlin, George H. and Polly A. Chamberlin, Francis Graham, Cynthia A. and Thomas H. McCartney, W. E. Lodge, Isaac Young, Jerred Mallernee, Sarah J. and Henry T. Fullerton, Josephine and Cal Travis, Alice and David McWhorter, Anna E. and Henry C. Foster, M. Croninger, Richard H. and Anna Coon, Jessie and Emma Albert, Frank R. and Ella Albert, Jessie and Irene Hainline, Taylor and Lucy Coon, Albert E. and Jennie Miller, James A. and Ida May Stout, B. F. and Ada Simonton, Robert C. and Ola E. Kirk, James H. and L. Virginia Leischner and tracts for sons Dale E. and Irene and James C. and Delores.

The farm has contained a kiln for firing bricks made from the clay on the farmland. The original house which still stands, was made from some of these bricks. It has a history as a place where Abe Lincoln often stopped to rest overnight and visit with the owners, when on his Circuit rides.

In 1947 James H. and L. Virginia Leischner bought the farm. They had three sons: James C., Dale E., Larry D. and a daughter Linda K. When they bought the restaurant in Cisco they moved there, ran it from 1970-1971, still live in the same building.

James C. Leischner joined the Navy in 1954 and is a Navy Recruiter in Decatur. He and his wife



Delores L. built a home on the farm and have three children: Melody A., Duanna G., and Sherman J. and a foster son, Gary A. Riggs. Her parents, Sherman D. and Evelyn Hubler moved their trailer on the same 3 acres. Dale served in the Navy also. He works for Caterpillar Co. in Decatur. He and his wife, Irene, have built a new house on their 3 acre tract on the farm. They have a son, John E., born in 1971. Larry and Dawn Leischner have lived near the area since he returned from the Navy. Now he works as an engineer for Norfolk and Western Railroad. They have five children: Wendi J., Larry D. II, Dana R., Tracey L., and Robert D. Linda K. lives in a trailer on the farm with her son James A. She is an operating room technician at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur.



## The Leshner Family

Harry James Leshner and wife, Mary Patricia Ensign, came to Cisco to live in 1948. Harry was formerly a resident of Cerro Gordo, Ill., and Pat was originally from Cisco. They had three daughters, Teresa, Chris, and Jean. Teresa and Chris are now married. Harry and their youngest daughter, Jean, age 16, both reside in Cisco.

Harry has done a lot of "ditch digging" for the people around Cisco. He is now employed at Caterpillar Tractor Co. and has been there for 19 years. Harry has been a resident of Cisco for 26 years and likes the small town very much. He will remain in Cisco, the rest of his life.



## The Lyons Family

A. H. (Bert) Lyons and Carrie Jimmerson were married in 1893 in Monticello. He came from Coscho-ton County, Ohio and Carrie came in a covered wagon from Missouri. The Bert Lyons family lived northeast of town. Bert and his brother, Charlie Lyons, had a small implement business in Cisco in 1894. Bert was the Township Assessor and the Village Clerk. He also worked for John Luker in the livery business. To this union was born three sons and five daughters. Bert Lyons passed away in 1921.

The three sons born to this marriage were George, Harry and Frank. All three of them served in World War I.

George married Maree Burchard. They lived in Decatur where he served on the police force with his uncle. He also worked for 10 years at the Union Iron Works. They moved back to Cisco when he retired and lived here until his wife passed away in 1969. George is now living in Maroa.

When Harry Lyons and Mabel Coon were married they made Cisco their permanent residence. Harry worked for five years at the Cisco Midland Lumber Company and for twenty years at the Union Iron Works in Decatur. Mabel ran the cream station (1925-1935) and then worked for 32 years in the Cisco Post Office. She passed away in 1969. Harry has retired and is still living in Cisco.

The youngest son, Frank, had a restaurant in town and when the young people would have their treasure hunts they would come to the restaurant for refreshments after the hunt was over. After his marriage to Lena Applegate, they started a grocery store which they ran for a year or so. They then moved to California. Both he and his wife worked in a clothing store there until he became ill. He passed away in 1953.



George, Frank and Harry Lyons

Julia and her husband Howard Stymets worked on a farm near Cisco for John Taylor. After their daughter Shirley was born they moved to Decatur. Howard worked as a driver on a delivery truck for the Wolfe Furniture Store. He is now retired.

Grace and her husband, Harry White, lived on a farm south and east of Cisco. They had three sons and three daughters. After moving into town where they lived for years, Grace passed away in 1964. She left 5 children and 9 grandchildren. (*See Harry White History*)

There are three daughters of the Bert Lyons family still living.

Jessie, who after years of work as housekeeper at the Allerton House in Monticello, retired and is now helping out at the antique shop in Cisco. She too lives here in Cisco.

Sabina and her husband, Oscar Massey, worked on a farm near Weldon for years for his mother and father. To Bina and her husband were born thirteen children. They are all living but one. She and her family are living in Weldon now.

The youngest daughter, Hildred and her husband Raymond Pirtle, live in Cisco. They have two children, a daughter Reta Ann, who lives in California and their son Roy Eugene, who lives in Blue Mound, Ill. with his family.

## Stanley Mackey Family

Stanley D. Mackey was born in 1915 near Mansfield, son of John and Bessie Groomes Mackey. Twilia N. Mackey was born in 1916, near White Heath, daughter of John and Callie Artman Valentine.

In 1937, shortly after their marriage, they moved north of Cisco. John Stanley (1937) and Phyllis Jean (1938) were born while the family lived here. The family moved to the Valentine farm north of White Heath in 1942. Joyce Ann (1942) and Joe Ervin (1946) were born on the same farm where their mother was raised. They now reside on the Pattengill farm, moving there in 1949.



The Mackeys: John, Jean, Twilia, Stanley, Joyce, and Joe.

Stanley and Twilia have been active in the Cisco United Methodist Church and 4-H. Stanley is a member of Farm Bureau and Twilia is active in W.S.C.S., Home Extension, and PTA. All of the children graduated from Cisco Grade School and Argenta-Oreana High School.

John married Marilyn Benjamin in 1962. They and their children Byron Stanley (1965), Craig John (1968) and Karen Irene (1972) live on the Whisnant farm southwest of Cisco.

Jean, a registered nurse, married Richard Clarke in 1961. They and their sons, Brandt and Kurt, live in California.

Joyce graduated from Patricia Stevens Career College and lives in St. Louis.

Joe married Kay Anderson in 1967. They live in Meredosia, Ill., where Joe teaches physical education. Both John and Joe were in the U.S. Army.



## The Robert Malone Family

In July of 1973 Bob and Barbara Malone moved to Cisco from Decatur. Bob moved to the area in 1969 from Olney. Barbara is the daughter of Bill Edwards of Edwards Farm Supply Co. Bob is the equipment supervisor at Edwards Farm Supply. They are the parents of one son, Shawn.

## Melvin

Lewis A. Melvin was born in Ohio in 1848, the son of John and Eliza Melvin. He came to the Cisco area shortly after the Civil War, being only 16 years of age when he enlisted. He married Martha Ann Chandler in 1872. They were married in the Chandler farm home in DeWitt County northwest of Cisco. Martha Ann Chandler was the daughter of the pioneer family of Hiram and Rachel Manlove Chandler. Hiram died at the early age of 48 and left his widow, Rachel with eight children. Martha Ann, being one of the eight, told of times when they drove in a wagon to Clinton, Ill., a distance of 20 miles to buy groceries and necessities to last a year. (see Chandler history)

Lewis and Martha lived west of Cisco and to them were born: Lutie (Mrs. Charles Parr), Henry, Earnest, Maude (Mrs. Ed Harlan), Mabel (Mrs. Charles Donovan), Myrtle (Mrs. George Whisnant). All attended West Cisco School. Both were active in church work. Lewis was president of the building committee when the second M.E. Church was built in 1910 and he served as Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years. He died in 1918. Martha was the first president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society when it was organized in 1900. The Ladies' Aid Society was formed the same year with Martha elected as treasurer and serving until her death in 1914.

One daughter survives, Mabel Donovan of Arlington, Texas, as well as seven grandchildren.

Henry Melvin (1871- ) married Alma Olson, and to them were born three children: Byron (1904- ), Helen (1905- ) and Louis (1907-1972). All are deceased. After Alma died, Henry married Grace Wheeler (1879-1969) in 1914. They raised the young family. Byron had two children. Helen married Clifford Footit. Louis married Florence Schrack (1910-), a graduate nurse and they have two children: Mike (1943- ) and Martha (1945- ). Mike and Mary Alice have two children. Gary and Martha Melvin Goble have two children and live on the Melvin farm.



Do you remember when Mac Ashton and Earl Rannebarger would ship cattle by train to the Cisco stockyards. When the pens were opened for the drive home it was wall to wall cattle going down the streets. One of the times they had sent the cattle to Cerro Gordo, on the cattle drive to Cisco some of the cattle got into a family's garden and cabbage became worth \$30.00 per head in damages.



## Miles

In 1855 Weston and Sam Miles came to Piatt County and bought 160 acres each, for five dollars an acre, both east of what is now Cisco. Sam stayed here, but Weston returned to Moorefield, West Va., until the spring of 1863. The war got so bad that Weston decided to leave for Illinois. His horses were

stolen by the south when he got ready to travel. He went to a fellow, who was able to get them back, so they hitched up and left during the night. They loaded two wagons, one a two horse wagon and the other a heavy four horse wagon.

Weston and Martha Miles had ten children: Edward, John, Mary, Ann, Mortimer, Trout, Charles, Jess (dug wells), Tom (David Thomas was a preacher), Gertrude, and one died in infancy. Gertrude married Fred Neistraht and their daughter, Mary, married Rollin Pease, son of Dr. L. Pease. The two oldest, Edward and John, joined the Federal Army and Martha stayed in Virginia with the two youngest, until Weston got to Illinois with the other six children.

Weston and the six children left with the wagons from Moorefield in March, 1863 and arrived here in May, 1863. Near Seymour, Illinois, the wagons became stuck in the mud, so Weston and part of the children rode on to brother Sam's, leaving some of the children overnight with the wagons. The next day he took extra horses back to pull them out. Sam and Weston gave land for a railroad right away when the railroad went through what is now Cisco. Sam and Weston married sisters Mary and Martha Simmons. Sam and Mary had ten children, too.

Trout Miles married Almira Fredrick and they had two sons, Cloud (1882- ) and Harley (1891- ). Harley married Alva Coffman. Their children are Thelma, Paul and Robert. Thelma and J.C. "Shake" Turner have two children, Bill and Mary. Paul was married, having four children: Shirley, Ronald, Rose Marie, Joy. Then he married Mary who had three children, Kathy, Debbie and Butch. Robert married Dorothy Peterson and they have one child, Robert, Jr. Harley and his family lived near and in Cisco many years before moving to Bement. Harley helped get the drainage for Cisco.



## George Miller Family

George Miller (1844-1918) and Ann Hunsley (1847-1928) were married in 1867 in England. They lived at Wombwell, a coal mining district, where their first five children were born. Since at that time, all young men were required to serve an apprenticeship in the mines, George brought his family to America in 1881. They settled north of Decatur, and the children went to school on North Water street. They came to Cisco in 1885, and farmed two miles south, where two more children were born. The children attended Havelly school. In 1898 they moved to Texas taking the three youngest children with them. George died there. Ann died in her daughter's home in Washington.

Eliza Ann Miller (1871- ) married William Ewan. They lived in England then came back to live in the northwest. They had thirteen children. They both died in Washington about 1930.



The George Miller Family, 1889, seated: George, Walter, Bertha, Oliver, Ann; standing: Eliza Ann, Harry, Albert and Katherine.

Harry Miller (1872-1953) married Edith Briggs in 1893 and they had six children. They lived near Cisco for a few years, then went into the northwest, where they homesteaded in Montana. Edith died in 1959.

Albert Miller (1875-1947) married Jennie Briggs (1874-1973) in 1897, and, except for a few years in North Dakota, lived in the Cisco area, where he farmed, was co-owner of an Implement Company in Cisco, then began trucking. (See article on trucking.) His was a Methodist family and he and his wife were active in the work of the church, in the choir, and the women's organizations. He was a member of a male quartet which served the community for many years. Jennie was a life-time cripple due to a childhood disease. They had five children: Gladys, Cecil, Thelma, Virgil and George.

Kate Miller (1878-1940) married William Briggs in 1902 and they lived in Minnesota. There were four children. William died a few years after Kate.

Walter Miller, (1880-1946) married Pearle Reeves. (Walter Miller story.)

Bertha Miller (1883-1966) married Alfred Stokey; they had one child, then divorced. She married Elmer Shuffleberger and they had nine children. This family were victims of the Kansas dust bowl, and they went to California, where both died.

Oliver Miller (1886-1963) married Agnes Wendling. They had three children and lived in Texas. Agnes is still living.

Gladys Miller (1898- ) married Homer Doane, a Cisco farmer in 1918. (See Doane)

Cecil Miller (1900- ) married Ruby Severns in 1922 and they have always lived in Battlecreek, Michigan. They have a daughter, Lois Jeanne, married to Lee Weiderman in 1961.

Thelma Miller (1901- ) married Perry Briggs in 1921. Their children are Harold, Dorothy and Virginia. They operated a restaurant in Cisco for many years,



and after Perry's death in 1959, she continued it for seven more years. She married William Sommers in Tucson, Arizona in 1967. He died there in 1970, and she still lives there as do her daughters. Harold (1924) married Betty Beisanthal in 1954 and their children are Kimberly (1958) and Jeffry (1963). Harold manages a hardware store in Danville. Dorothy (1926) married John Kettlekamp in 1948. John is in insurance. Their children are Rebecca (1949) married to Robert Ferguson, Richard (1951) in the military service and JoEllen (1958). Virginia (1929) married Lynn Meece of Monticello in 1949. They have four children, Mark (1954), Pamela (1956), Kathryn (1961) and Deborah (1962). Lynn is a letter carrier.

Virgil Miller (1905-1957), born in North Dakota, married Marguerite Moore of Argenta in 1925. She is now married to Milford Miller (no relation) and living in Arkansas.

George Miller (1916- ) was born in North Dakota and married Blanche Foltz in 1938. They have been active in the Methodist Church in Monticello, and he is fond of choir work and quartet singing. He is a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge and they are Past Officers of the O. E. S. He has been a trucker and school bus operator. (See article on trucks and buses) They have two children. Jane (1942) married Larry Casey in 1965. They have a son, David (1967) and three children by Larry's first marriage, Dianne, Deborah and Douglas. They live in Newton where Larry is Farm Advisor, and Jane teaches. John (1943) married Linda Truitt in 1968. They have a daughter, Jacqueline (1971) and live in Indiana. He is with a farm machinery manufacturer and Linda teaches.



## *The Jacob Miller Family*

Jacob, (1878-1943) son of George and Mary Miller, was born in Lane, Ill. He married Daisy Dean Glen, (1877-1953) the daughter of William and Minerva Glen, who was born in DeWitt.

In 1927 they moved to Cisco with their three youngest children — twins Dorothy Fay and Doris Ray, and Jacob Eplor (Jakie), born in Clinton. The two older children, Marshall and Nettie, were both married and living in Lane, Ill. Marshall later moved to Cisco. While living in Cisco, Jacob worked at construction and also helped with corn shelling while working for Dick Wangler.

Marshall married Jessie Mae Campbell Fisher and they had four sons, William, Essell, Marshall Jr., and Richard. Jessie died in 1951 and Marshall later married Ann Wittig of Deland. Marshall has farmed all his life, as well as worked with his brother Jakie corn shelling. William married Sheredith McCready and they had one son. He later married Edna Jones and they live in Bloomington. Essell married Helen Marie Cook and they have sons John Douglas, a graduate of Parkland College, Ronald Eugene, attending Parkland, Gary Edward and twins Terry Wayne and Larry Duane. (Larry being deceased.) Essell is an

Electronic Technician at Caterpillar Tractor in Decatur and also farms north of Cisco. Marshall Jr. married Jane Logan and they have four children. Marshall Jr., a graduate of Eastern Illinois College, is Athletic Co-ordinator at Illinois State University. Richard married Opal Blackwell and they adopted a son. Richard later married Rose Medeiros and they have four children. Richard is retiring from the Air Force to Indiana.

Nettie married Coleman Arthur and they had ten children, Ruby, Raymond, Hazel, Vernelle, Homer, Charles, Rosetta, Virgil, Mervin, and Laura. Nettie and Coleman are now deceased.

Dorothy married Clifford Eubank and they had two children, Herchel Dean (deceased) and Martha Kay. Clifford's son Clifford Jr. lived with them. Clifford is now retired after having worked a number of years for Model Brass, in Decatur. Clifford Jr. married Melba Luster and they had two children. He later married Geraldine Newman. He is retired from the Air Force. Martha married Norman Richard and they have one son. Martha and Norman are teachers and live in Texas.

Doris is making his home with Dorothy and her husband.

Jakie married Ethelene Hill and they have two sons, Thomas Jakie (TJ), who is married to Angie Stoerger, and Donald Lee who is still at home. Jakie and his sons run the Miller Trucking and Shelling Service.



Jacob and Daisy Miller.



Remember when they had the Free Movies every Saturday night in Cisco? Between the depot and the grocery store they would set drain tile in the middle of the road and then put boards across them to form seats. The movies were shown on the side of the grocery store.

## Walter E. Miller Family

Walter Edwin Miller (1880-1946) was born in England. He came to the United States with his parents, George Miller and Ann Hunsley Miller.

During Walter's early years his family lived in Cisco. In 1904 Walter Miller and Pearl Reeves were married. To this union were born Geneva, Gerald and Leora. Geneva died as a young child.

Besides farming, Walter was quite active in the community affairs, being a road commissioner, singing in a quartet with Head McCartney, Scott Armsworth, and Albert Miller, working in the Cisco Methodist Church and Sunday School.



Gerald A., Pearl and Walter Miller

Gerald Miller farmed with his father then took over the farms in his father's business. In his opinion, there was no better place to live. In 1939 he was married to Vernetta E. Mitchell, a school teacher from Argenta, from Albion. Gerald Miller passed away in 1971 at the age of 59.

Mrs. Walter Miller (Pearl) worked at Kirby Hospital in Monticello after her husband's death. At the age of seventy-five, and still on duty at the hospital, she suffered a heart attack and died in 1961.

Vernetta Miller returned to teaching in 1960 at Maroa-Forsythe High School. Gerald and Vernetta Miller had four children. Dennis, an electrical engineer, lives in Wisconsin with his wife Suzanne Neimann Miller and two sons. Susan Miller Dresback is a librarian at Oakton Junior College and lives in Evanston. Janice Miller Olson and husband James, an engineer, live in Chicago Heights with daughters Angela, Kelly and Tanya. Walter Thomas Miller, wife Kandra Eagan Miller, and son Jeremy live in St. Joseph where Walt manages the grain elevator.

Leora Miller married Max Weddle in 1938. During the first few years of marriage Max farmed for Walter Miller and Leora taught school. Max has been in the Air Force for thirty years. They live in St. Petersburg, Florida. They have one son, James, who is in the Air Force, he is married and has two children, Gary and Tammie.

## History of Robert C. Mills

Robert C. Mills was a young man of 19 when he came to the Cisco area from southern Indiana. In the spring of 1918 he was inducted into the Army and spent a year serving in the Medical Corp. After service, he returned to Indiana where he attended Oakland City College. In 1922 he married Mabel Hawkins of Milltown, Indiana. Bob moved his wife and two sons, Robert (1923) and Gene (1925) to the Cisco community in 1928. In the years that followed he was employed by area farmers. He also helped build the present post office. Two daughters were born to this couple, Anita (1930) and Carol (1934). In 1941, the family moved north of Cisco to the Charles Doane farm. In 1968, Bob and Mabel moved ½-mile north of Cisco.

Robert, Gene and Anita graduated from Nixon Township High School. Robert and Gene joined the Army in 1943, serving until 1946. In 1948, Robert married Georgia Briggs. He has his Master's Degree and is teaching agriculture in Manteno, Illinois. Their children are Faye and Marvin.

Gene married Jean Conover in 1944 and have two children, Dennis (1945) and Janice (1947). Gene and Jean have made Decatur their home.

Anita married Kenneth Cook in 1948. They reside in Chillicothe.

Carol graduated from Monticello High School and married Donald Padgett. They now reside north of Cisco on the farm owned by Charles Olson. Their two daughters are Terri (1957) and Kim (1959).

Bob and Mabel have been active in local organizations. Bob is a charter member of the Cisco American Legion Post and belongs to the Masonic Lodge. Mabel is a member of the Cisco Home Extension and an active member of the WSCS of the Cisco Methodist Church where both are members. Mabel's hobby over the years has been raising flowers.

In August of 1972, friends, neighbors and relatives helped this couple celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.



## Miner

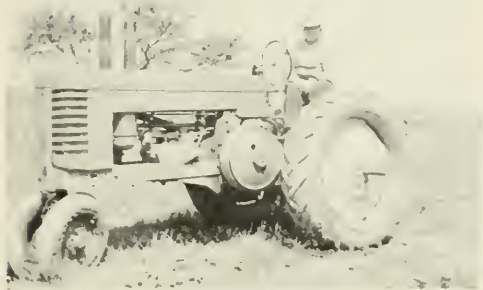
Blanch Carper Chapman married John Roy Miner in 1929. They lived on several farms in the Monticello area before moving to Cisco in 1939 where they farmed until their retirement, at which time they moved to Cerro Gordo. Their five children, Dwight, Virginia, Velma, Jack and Alan, all attended Oak Grove School until it closed in 1943. They then attended Cisco Grade School. In 1944 the Cisco High School consolidated into Monticello unit. All the children graduated from that high school.

Dwight now farms where his folks lived and works at Caterpillar. He married Mary Achterberg from Texas and they have six children.

Virginia married Dale Norfleet, son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Norfleet who live on the Studebaker land north of Cisco. Dale and his brother Gary are partners

and farm in the Cisco area. Dale and Virginia lived on a farm at Cisco until three years ago at which time they moved on a farm west of Monticello with their four children.

Velma Gadbury lives in Champaign with her four children.



Roy Miner

Jack and his wife, Faye Houser, farm east of Monticello. Their family consists of four children.

Alan Miner married Carolyn Lubbers. He farms one of his father's farms at Fisher and is Assistant Manager at Champaign Production Credit Corporation. They have three children.

## Mintun

Stephen Mintun was born in 1856. He married Rosella Lewis in 1877. A short time later they moved to Nebraska. Their children were: John William, born in 1878; Harry, 1881; Lena Maud, 1886; Jessie Belle, 1888. In 1894 they decided to return to Cisco, Ill., starting Oct. 1, 1894, traveling in two covered wagons and camping and cooking their meals along the way. At one point the horses became wearied and a little off feed. A very kind farmer invited them to camp in his barnyard for a little rest, after which the family as well as the horses were much refreshed. They arrived in Cisco Oct. 30, 1894.

John William married Jessie Rinehart. Their children were Berlyn Dwight (1902); Vira Laurine (1906). Harry married Myrtle Gisinger. One child, Ralph H. was born in 1910. Lena Maud married Charles Hunsley. Their children were Harwin Merrill (1909), and Milford Charles (1913). Jessie Belle married Walter Coffin. Their children were Varlen (1910), Vivian L. (1914), Dale Stephen (1920), Nina Rosella (1922).

After retiring from farming, Stephen and his wife moved into Cisco where he did carpenter work and worked in the Grain Elevator. His last job was that of janitor at the Cisco School. Mrs. Mintun died in 1930 and Stephen Mintun in 1936.

Ralph H. Mintun married Evelyn Evey and lives in Bement. They had one son, Paul Ralph, who died in infancy. Ralph owns and operates a general auto repair business.

## Munson Family

Richard D. Munson was born in Cerro Gordo in 1936. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Rolley Munson. Richard married Mary Lou Patten, daughter of the Ralph L. Pattens, of Cerro Gordo. After 8 years in the Air Force, Richard moved his family from Arthur to Cisco in 1970. He works at McClure's in Monticello. The next year, Mrs. Maude Munson, Dick's mother, moved to Cisco. The Munsons set up a new double-wide trailer in 1972.

Dick and Mary Lou have four children: Rick, born in New Mexico in 1957; Gloria, born in Decatur in 1960; Joyce, born in Alaska in 1962; and Brenda, born in Decatur in 1964. Mary Lou worked part-time at Don McKinley's Grocery Store, and since 1972 is cooking at the Cisco Grade School.

## Charles W. McCarty

Charles Wesley and Mary Jane McCarty farmed west of Cisco. Part of the land now being farmed by Stanley Mackey. To this marriage six children were born:

Marion—who rode with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders up San Juan Hill.

Emma McCarty (1869-1957) was never married and lived in the home provided for her by her brother Charles Roy.

Chattie McCarty (1871-1957) was married to Charles Daves. Chattie and Charlie lived on the old McCarty farm and there Charles died. They had five children; Winnie, who died at the age of 4; Goldie, one time postmistress of the Cisco post office and was married to Charles Parr; Opal; and Chauncey. Chattie was a prominent member of Cisco Woman's Club.

Abbie became the wife of J. R. Staats. In the early spring of 1898, Abb was getting the meal when she proceeded to shake the ashes of the coal stove down—leaving the draft open. She was standing too close to the draft and caught fire. She ran out of the house to keep the house from burning—as Wade, the baby, was sleeping. All her clothes burned off before Bob Staats could get to her. She lived only a few days after that. Bob remarried and he and his new wife raised the baby and her own son of the same age. They had two daughters of their own.

Charles Roy (a twin sister died at birth) was born in 1883 at Cisco. He married Lura Bessie Stevens in 1909. To them were born two sons and one daughter; Charles M. McCarty (1912), Joy S. McCarty (1916), and Betty June McCarty Hoegsted (1921). Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roy McCarty and children lived in Champaign from 1912 to 1957, when Mrs. McCarty died.



## The Thomas McCartney Family

Head McCartney was a descendant of the Madden-McCartney union. His mother, Cynthia Madden, and her family homesteaded the family farm. She was born in the house southeast of the present homesite. His father Thomas Holden McCartney came to this community with his parents from Circleville, Ohio at the early age of 8 or 10 about the year 1856. They settled just south and east of the Madden homestead.

Thomas (1848-1919) was born in Ohio and Cynthia (1851-1932) was born on the home place. They were united in marriage in 1869. This union combined some of the farm from the two homesteads. They went to housekeeping in a small house on the corner 2 miles south of Cisco where the present McCartney home stands. They had seven children: Lillie; twins Nora and Ora; Pearl; Thomas N. Head; Piatt (now deceased) and Glee. All of the children were born at the family homestead except Piatt. After the two older children were born the family home was rebuilt and enlarged to a two story eight room home with a summer kitchen at the south end. The NE corner of the present home is the original house that Thomas took up housekeeping in.

Lillie married George Widick and settled on the Widick farm west of Willow Branch school. Head's grandson, Jeff McCartney, lives in the present Widick house.

Nora and Pearl McCartney married the Parish brothers who were school teachers. Nora married Walter and Pearl married Will. After their marriages they settled in Cisco and started the Parish Implement Business. In 1901 the families moved to Idaho and homesteaded farms there.

Glee McCartney married Will Norris and lived with her mother in Monticello.

Head McCartney married Nora Wheeler in 1911 and started housekeeping in the same place his folks had started. Four children were born to this union: Thomas Head, who died in infancy; Edna Elaine; Thomas Nathaniel; and Cynthia Elizabeth who died in infancy. Elaine married James Van Matre. They have two children, Elizabeth and James. Elaine and her husband now own the McCartney farm and residence and Burl Van Matre farms it along with the Glee Norris farm that joins it on the south. Thomas N. married Margaret Hendrix. They have 4 children; Noble T., Jeffry Lynn, Mary Margaret and Ruth Ann.

Head served for over 30 years as Secretary of the Masonic Lodge and both he and Nora were members of the Methodist church. They also belonged to the Eastern Star Chapter. He was elected and served 30 years as town clerk of Willow Branch Township.



### William McCartney

William A. McCartney (1845-1914) was of Scotch-Irish ancestry and one of eight children born to William McCartney, a native of Virginia, and Angeline (Head) McCartney, a native of Ohio. He was born in Coshocton County, Ohio. His boyhood was spent in

Ross County, Ohio. Members of his family residing in Piatt County were: Caroline, wife of A. E. Parr and Emma, wife of Solomon Hinson, and a brother Thomas H. In 1865, he and Thomas journeyed to Piatt County and after three years he became the owner of farm land in Willow Branch Township. He was married in 1869 to Ann Virginia Scott Miles, daughter of Samuel and Betsy Miles who were among the early settlers of Piatt County. The McCartneys were the parents of one son, William E. McCartney, born in 1870. William A. McCartney and his wife took an active part in social affairs. In later years, they left the farm and moved to Cisco. His wife died in 1912.

The son, William E. McCartney attended the neighborhood school and went to business college. In 1896 he married Anna E. Miner, daughter of Ira F. and Mary A. Bruffet Miner. The first home of the William E. McCartneys was located west of Havelly School. In later years, they moved to his father's farm which was located across the road from the present farm home. In a few years Mr. McCartney purchased a 160 acre farm located two miles south of Cisco from Sam Sherman where he built a modern brick home and a brick round barn in 1909 and 1911. The farm was later named "Maple Tree Farm." They were the parents of seven children, namely; W. Ward (1897), Wayne C. (1898), Ira M. (1900), Roy S. (1904), Mary O. (1905) Dean M. (1910) and Mildred A. (1913).

Ward married Mildred McIntosh in 1918. They had three children, two deceased early in life and Virginia McCartney Ganter. Mildred died in 1928 and he later married Lois Primmer in 1934. To this union were born three children, one deceased, William Ward and Eileen McCartney Blythe. Wayne married Eva Cloud (1901- ) in the year 1919. Their children are Robert and Beulah McCartney Matson. Ira married Marjorie Hamilton (1913- ) in 1940 and they have two sons, Steve and Mike. Steve with his wife, Maureen, and



Grandma Ann Virginia Miles McCartney and three grandsons, Ira, Ward and Wayne.

daughter, Kelly Jo, reside southeast of Cisco. Michael is employed in St. Louis and is home on weekends. Ira and Marge have been very active in the Methodist Church and community affairs. Roy was married to Harriett Crabb in 1932 and they have two children, Scott and Sue Ann. Mary married Frank Kossieck in 1940. Dean married Viola Bartison (1912- ) in 1936. Their three children are Patricia Ann McCartney Borelli, Luella McCartney Doss and Edwin. Mildred married Leroy Berney in 1945. There are twenty-two great grandchildren.

The William E. McCartneys were active members of Cisco Methodist Episcopal church, serving on the Board, Ladies Aid Society and other capacities where needed. They were charter members of the Order of Eastern Star 849, and he was active in Masonic Lodge, Markwell Chapter 58, Beaumanoir Commandery, the Bloomington Consistory and Ansar Shrine of Springfield. He served on the first Board of Directors of the Piatt County Farm Bureau and was an active member of Cisco Cooperative Grain Co. The McCartney children were educated at Havelly and Oak Grove Elementary Schools, Cisco two-year high school, Decatur and Monticello High Schools.

William E. McCartney died in 1948 and his wife died in 1944. Since his death, four of the children are deceased. The Maple Tree Farm is occupied by Ira McCartney. The other remaining children are Dean of White Heath and Mary Kossieck of Decatur.



Do you remember taking singing lessons at the Methodist Church in the evening from Prof. Olds from Millikin University?



## Williams - Jones - McIntosh

Margaret Williams was born in 1873. Her parents were Andrew Jackson Williams and Violet Elizabeth Hurst Williams. They settled in Piatt county in 1860, coming originally from Pickaway County, Ohio. (*See Andrew Jackson Williams History.*) Margaret married Frank Jones, son of A. H. and E. J. Jones, in 1891. They lived in Decatur awhile, where a daughter Frances was born in 1893, then settled on a farm southwest of Cisco. Frank Jones passed away in 1903. Margaret Jones then married J. F. McIntosh of Onarga in 1904.

J. F. McIntosh was first married to Florence Wilcox. They had twins, Earl and a girl who died, and Mildred. Florence died of pneumonia in 1902. These children lived with their grandparents till the J. F. (Fred) McIntosh — Margaret Jones marriage. The family soon came to Cisco, living on a farm north and east of town. They moved belongings, including machinery and livestock, by rail. The land had originally been purchased for \$1.00 per acre, consisting of some swamp-land. Later, Fred owned a general store which he sold and returned to the farm. He had one of the first tractors and the first combine in this area.

Helen Jones married Willard E. Ater in 1912. (*See Ater History.*)



Margaret and Fred McIntosh.

In 1918, Mildred McIntosh married W. Ward McCartney. They had three children: Eugene William, Francis Harold passed away in infancy, and Virginia Louise (1924). Mildred died in 1928.

Earl McIntosh married Ruth King, from Indiana, in 1925, and there were four children: Burt, Frances, Marilyn, and Shara. The family now lives in Clinton.



## McKinney Family

The McKinneys were early identified with Piatt county. They were descendants of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. After arriving in the United States, they moved to the Appalachian area. In 1847 John McKinney came to Piatt county, Illinois, settling southwest of Cisco on the farm now occupied by the Wilmer L. Cliftons, she being the daughter of the late Harold B. McKinney.

Two years later, Andrew and James, sons of Alexander McKinney, settled on sections just north of Uncle John. Their father, Alexander, came to Illinois in 1852 and settled on a farm just north of Cerro Gordo.

The ground that James McKinney settled on was granted to him by President Fillmore in 1851. He married Emily Diantha Chapman and they had five children, with only one surviving, Orlando Boyd McKinney. He married Jennie Schoolcraft, a teacher of Cerro Gordo, in 1882. He farmed southwest of Cisco, later moving to Urbana, then Decatur. There were two sons born to this union: Harold B. and Roland B. Orlando died in 1923. Jennie McKinney made her home with her son Harold and family until she died in 1941.

Harold attended the University of Illinois, Then he went to Chicago, worked at Marshall Field & Co. and Western Electric Co. He later returned to Cisco and



Harold and Bessie McKinney.

farming. Bessie I. Williams became his bride. They had three children: Mary Kathryn, who passed away in 1931 at age 18; Paul B. and Helen Louise.

They lived for most of their married life on the farm, were members of the Order of Eastern Star 849 and Harold served as First Worthy Patron. He was active in community affairs, served as Willow Branch Township supervisor for several terms, one of the trustees for Cisco Fire Protection District from the time it was organized until the time of his death in 1957.

Bessie was a member of the W.S.C.S. of Cisco United Methodist Church, a charter member of the Cisco Woman's Club, a 50-year member of the Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Birthday Club and the Cisco Home Extension. She passed away in 1973.

Paul McKinney is presently living in Valley City, North Dakota. He married Beulah Rotenberry of Decatur in 1938. They have two children and one granddaughter.

Helen Louise married Wilmer Leon Clifton in 1948. They have one son, Jeffrey Leon, born in 1955. (*see Clifton History.*)



### *Fred Niles Family*

Fred and Minnie Niles (both deceased) moved to Cisco and worked for Clem Doane and Charley Croninger. They purchased property from Roy Coffin in 1928 in Cisco and lived there until Mrs. Niles death.

Mr. Niles was born in Germany and came with his parents to the United States, when he was nine years old. Fred and Minnie had six children; Mable (deceased) married Wm. Bush and had five children, Alice and Guy Compton have two children, Harry

(deceased) married Blanche Barclay of Weldon and they lived in the Cisco community for 22 years. Though living near Oreana, Blanche is active in Cisco activities. They have two sons, Robert, married to Jane Orr of Onargo, and Paul, who is married to Sandra Crowe of Oreana. Each has four children, but Robert has one deceased. Everett (deceased) married Vada Goken of Weldon and lived there. Henry married Stella Rannebarger of Cisco and they have one son. Cynthia and Glenn Tozer (deceased) have two sons.



### *The Noecker Family*

The Noecker brothers, Sylvester and Nate, came to the Cisco area on horseback with covered wagons in the mid 1800's. They left Pickway, Ohio, to come to Illinois.

Sylvester married Ann Eliza Agustus, daughter of Clark Agustus, in 1872. The Agustus family had traveled to the Argenta area from the same county in Ohio as the Noecker brothers. Sylvester and Ann Eliza settled on land purchased from Henry Noecker in



Sylvester Noecker home, Mary, Ann (Mrs. Sylvester) and Bertha.

1874. Sylvester then acquired more land in 1876 and 1903 to make his farm a total of 240 acres. They built the house pictured in the 1880's. The Ruch family are living in the house as it now stands.

There were seven children born to Sylvester and Ann. They were William Peter, Harry, Clarence, Bertha, Grace, Mary, Harrison. After farming his land all of his life Sylvester retired and moved to Argenta in 1909. He died the following spring. The eldest son, W. P. Noecker moved back on the home place with his wife, Lula Harkelroad Noecker and their children, Ray, Doris, Elbert, Lucille, Cyril, Harry, Clark, Thelma and Jean. They lived there until the early 1930's. The farm was then sold and W. P. Noecker and his family moved to Monticello and then on to the Hammond area.

The children of W. P. Noecker and his wife Lula, are all living with the exceptions of Ray, Elbert, Harry, and Clark. Ray's widow, Vera Scott Noecker, lives in Cisco at this time as do their daughters, JoAnn Noecker Shafer and Marilyn Noecker Sago. A son, Don, lives in Jacksonville, Illinois.



## *Nolan Family*

The Bernard Nolan family moved to the J. T. Whitley farm northwest of Cisco in February of 1951. Bernie and Peg had three children: Greg, Charlie, and Kathleen. Margaret and Mary were born after the move to Cisco and this completes the family.

All of the children have attended Cisco Grade School and are graduates of Monticello High School. Greg is a graduate of Loyola University, Charlie a graduate of U. of I., Kathleen a graduate of Illinois State, Margaret a senior in pre-med at U. of I., and Mary is a freshman at St. Francis School of Nursing in Peoria, Ill.

Greg, his wife Cathy, and their two children, Gregory James and Kevin Michael, have lived in Cisco since March 1973. Greg operates the Marathon tank wagon for the Cisco Coop Elevator. Greg served in the army.

Charlie and his wife Gail, live in Carmi, Illinois.

Bernie and Peg have kept busy with their family, the farm, their church, school, and civic activities. Bernie and Greg are both members of the Cisco Fire Department. Peg is a member of the Cisco Home Extension. Greg's wife Cathy is a member of the Cisco Evening Woman's Club. The family are all members of St. Philomena's Catholic Church in Monticello, Illinois.



Charles, Mabel and Thada Olson.



## *History of Charles Olson*

Charles Olson was born in 1879 to James and Christina Olson of Deland, Illinois. Thada Lane, born in 1885, married Charles Olson in 1914. In 1917 the couple moved to a farm one mile north of Cisco. The house on this farm had been moved to this site by a former owner, John Reardon, from the Weddle farm.

During the years that followed Charles farmed 1500 acres with a stable of 40 horses. He took great

pride in his horses, often showing them at fairs. He raised many of his horses. His show horses were Percheron. He sold a team of these to Budweiser Company, in St. Louis.

Being one of the more progressive farmers of his day he was one of the first in the area to farm with tractors. He was also one of the first in this area to plant the crop, soybeans, then called the "wonder bean". He owned a Case steam engine which was used to power a Reeves thresher. He also owned a Sandwich corn sheller.

Born to Charles and Thada was a daughter, Mabel. Mabel became secretary for the Cisco Grain Co. Later she was employed by the Gerber State Bank of Argenta. She married William Weirich and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she now resides with her husband and two children, William and Christine.

Charles died in 1946 and Thada remained on the farm until 1957 when she moved to Scottsdale, Arizona near her daughter. Thada died in July of 1973.



Helen, Milt, Jo Ann and Don Padgett.

## *History of Milton Padgett*

Milton Padgett was born in Wayne City, to Virgil and Rebecca Padgett in 1905. He married Helen Cheatham in Clinton and moved to the Cisco area in 1932. He worked for Ralph Rannebarger for several years. During this time two children were born to Milt and Helen. Don, was born in 1932 and JoAnn was born in 1936. The family then moved south of Cisco where Milt rented land from Loren Pattengill. In 1949, the family moved north of Cisco to farm the Charles Olson land.

Don, a graduate of Argenta High School enlisted in the Air Force in 1951 and served four years. He married Carol Mills, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills in 1952. He was discharged in 1955 and returned to the Cisco area. Two daughters were born to them, Terri and Kim.

JoAnn, a graduate of Monticello High School and the University of Illinois married Gary Verhey in 1964. She now resides with her husband and two sons, Greg and Brian, near Spokane, Washington.

Milt died in September, 1964. Helen continued to live in the Olson house until she remarried in 1968 when she moved to Monticello.



## *Pearl Padgett Family History*

Pearl Padgett and his wife, Serelah, moved to the Cisco community in 1923. They lived with and worked for Ralph Rannebarger. In 1924 a daughter, Wilma, was born to the Padgetts. In 1926 they moved to the Statts farm. In 1928 Pearl and family moved to the Loren Pattengill farm southwest of Cisco. Wilma attended Havley School, then transferred to Cisco Grade School. She went to Cisco High School two years and graduated from Cerro Gordo High.

In the summer of 1941, Wilma married Donald Hall of Cerro Gordo and they moved to Peoria. The Padgett's moved to the Scott farm north of Cisco in 1942. The Hall's moved back to Cisco to help with the farming. In 1943 a son, Tom, was born to Don and Wilma. Padgett's rented the Charles Olson land, however after Don was discharged from service in 1946, Padgett's bought the Hollorand Farm from Audrey Chapman and the Hall's moved there. A daughter, Donna Lea, was born to Don and Wilma in 1947.

A tragedy struck the family in 1948 when Pearl Padgett was killed in an automobile accident in Springfield. Milt Padgett, a brother of Pearl, moved to the Olson farm. Serelah built a home in Cisco and the Hall's moved to the Scott Farm. Another tragedy struck the family in 1952 when Serelah Padgett and Donna Lea Hall were both killed in an automobile accident at Forsythe.

Tom Hall graduated from Cisco Grade School and Monticello High School. In 1961 he married Sonia Strohl. He finished college at Millikin. They live in Clinton with their two children, Amy and Craig. Tom is Assistant Manager of the Dewitt County Savings and Loan. The Don Hall's resided on the Scott farm until 1970 when they moved to Arizona where Don is associated with Amelco Electric Corp. and Wilma is with the First National Bank of Arizona.



## *Pape Family*

Thomas Pape, born in 1830 in England, and Elizabeth Boyland, born in 1833 in New York, were married in 1852 and had four children.

Henry A. Pape 1864-1948) was born near Cisco. He attended East Cisco School. He farmed 80 acres north of Cisco, and moved into Cisco in 1926.

Cora Clow Oxley (1869-1962) was born in Loudon City, Ill. She married Henry Pape in 1905. Mrs. Pape was a 50 year member of the Rebekah Lodge, a

charter member of the Woman's Club and a member of the Methodist Church. The Pape's had no children, but raised Mrs. Pape's granddaughter, Ileen Coon, born in Cisco in 1913. Ileen was married to Glenn Vest in 1936. They have lived in and around Cisco since their marriage and have one son, Lee Ray, who married Anna Tate in 1958. There are two grandchildren.



## *Andrew Parr Family*

The first member of the Parr family to settle in the Cisco area was Andrew Elliot Parr. He was born in Ohio in 1842. His father, Hiram Parr was born in Lickin County and his mother, Sarah, was a native of New Hampshire. At age 18, he came to Illinois and for some months worked in Macon County. After the outbreak of the rebellion, he was not content to remain in the North while others were braving hardships and danger so he entered the army and served in Company E, 116th Ill. Infantry. He served under General Sherman and marched from Atlanta to the sea.

When the war was over, he returned to Piatt County and married Caroline McCartney. She was born in Ohio in 1840. Her paternal ancestors were Irish. When her father died in Ohio in 1865, she came with her mother and sisters to the Cisco community. After their marriage they lived in various places near Cisco and finally bought 320 acres east of Cisco. They had eight children. The survivors were Charles T., Samuel, Maude, Chester and Perley.

Charles T. Parr, the eldest child, was born north-east of Cisco in 1870. His youth was spent in this community where he attended country schools and a term at Brown's Business College. In 1896, he married Lutie A. Melvin. She was the daughter of Lewis and Martha Melvin (*see Melvin history*).

Charles and Lutie lived north of Cisco where their two children were born, Lloyd and Lucille. In 1899, they moved into the home of the paternal parents, Andrew E. and Caroline Parr who moved to Monticello to retire. Caroline Parr died in 1916 and Andrew died in 1925. Charles and Lutie built the present home which is now the home of their grandson, Melvin H. Gulley.

Mr. Parr was an active citizen of the community serving on the Grain Co. Board from 1908 to 1947. He was active in the Methodist Church, the Lodge and Masons. Mrs. Parr was active in church and D.A.R. in Monticello. Lloyd died during a flu epidemic when he was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Station during W.W. I. Their daughter, Lucille, was married in 1924 to Sanford J. Gulley of Urbana, Ill. They now reside in Decatur. Their children are Barbara, who married Dean A. Robb and now lives in Michigan, and Melvin, born in 1930, and married to Carol Franklin of Decatur. There are six great-grandchildren.

## Daniel Perry Parr

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Perry Parr moved to Cisco in 1904. Mr. Parr lived near Weldon and was the son of Oliver and Jemima Parr. He married Nora Shaffer of Argenta in 1882. Mr. Parr was a retired farmer due to illness. They had five daughters. One, Ada, died in infancy. Sylvia was married to Charles Humphrey from Missouri and spent most of their married life in or near Laramie, Wyoming. Eunice was married to Lloyd Bryant of Bloomington and spent their married life near Dunbar, Wisconsin. Olive was married to John Reed of Kentucky and spent their married life in and around Cisco, Bement and Cerro Gordo. Jessie was married to Parke H. Simer of Cisco and spent most of their married life in the Chicago area. They both taught school in Cisco before they were married.



The King Pattengale Family, back row: Clarence, King, Bernard, Carl and Paul; front row: Anna, Margaret and Ruth.



Nora Parr, Olive Parr Reed, Jessie Parr Simer, Eunice Parr Bryant and Daniel Perry Parr in front of their home.

## King Pattengale Family

King Pattengale and his wife Anna (Simer) Pattengale moved to Cisco in 1906, with their four children. Later on two more children were born. The children were: Bernard (deceased); Ruth (Mrs. Chas. Leach), Deland, Illinois; Carl, Grandview, Missouri; Clarence (deceased); Margaret (Mrs. Berlie Hart), Bradenton, Florida; and Paul, St. Louis, Missouri.

King came to Cisco to be agent-operator for the Illinois Central Railroad and held that job until his retirement. In those days the railroad played a vital part in the economy of the community. The telegraph was also very important and on election nights King would stay at the depot all night receiving the results of the election by wire. Any news of importance was passed along by other operators including weather reports.

King passed away in 1942 and Anna in 1952. At the present time no member of the family is living in Cisco.

## Pattengill Family

Dr. Morrell Pattengill was born in 1868 at Wheelersburg, Ohio, the second son of Smith and Alice Littlejohn Pattengale. They were of English lineage. The eight children were: Smith, Morrell, Ira, King, James, Oscar Lewis, Lydia and William Channing. In 1880 the family moved to Oconee, Shelby County.

Dr. Pattengill came to Cisco in 1896 to practice medicine. He graduated from Rush Medical College. Nellie Grace Croninger became his bride in 1899. She was the daughter of Mahlon Croninger. They built a house on Main Street where Sam Clarks live now. Doctor and Nellie had one son, Loren Morrell, born in 1907. They spent some time travelling in the warmer climate of the south during the winter, because of Nellie's health. She died in 1910 at age 35. Soon after this, the doctor's mother, Alice, came to live with he and Loren. She was a loyal worker with the societies of the M.E. Church until her death in 1929. Another member of the family was Rosa Koonce (cousin to Minnie Sago) who came to Cisco about 1911. She now resides in Mattoon.

The Doctor helped look after the farming interests and his hobbies were gardening and raising roses and new varieties of peonies. He was a member of the building committee for the third M.E. Church in Cisco and was a charter member and a fifty-year member of Masonic Lodge No. 965 of Cisco. He was 87 when he died in 1955.

In 1931 Loren Pattengill married Ruth E. Drysdale, (1907- ), daughter of Cornelius and Sarah Martin Drysdale of Blue Mound. Ruth was a hospital dietitian, trained at Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and served as a dietitian at Cook County Nurse's Home, then later at Decatur Macon County Hospital. Their only child was Shirley Beth, a Millikin graduate, born in 1932. They moved in 1938 to the red brick house on Main Street which was built by Loren's uncle, Charles Croniger, Jr., in 1912.





**Dr. and Mrs. Morrell Pattengill.**

Loren was active in community affairs, serving as mayor; on board of directors and president of Cisco Coop. Grain Co.; president of board of trustees of Cisco Fire Protection Dist.; a director of North-town Bank of Decatur; and vice president of Gerber State Bank of Argenta. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge of Cisco, Ansar Shrine and Royal Order of Jesters of Springfield. Besides his farming and livestock interests, he owned and operated an apple orchard and raised white deer. Loren passed away in 1970.

Their daughter, Shirley, married Lawrence A. Hamilton of Decatur in 1955. Larry is a stock broker in Champaign. They live in Monticello. Their three children are: Angela Rene, William Morrell and Loren Todd.



### ***Paugh Family***

Hardie T. Paugh, wife Emma and five children, moved to Cisco from DeLand around 1914. He was elected road commissioner and also had a well digging machine, with which he drilled a large number of wells in Piatt county. Later he ran the garage which was located on Main Street in Cisco. After that he had one back of his house on Main Street.

In 1921 he moved his family to Wisconsin where he purchased farm land. The children are all married. Fred lives in California and is retired. They have one son. Florence Paugh Beamer is a widow and lives in Monticello. She worked at Shriner's Hospital and Children's Memorial. In later years she was a department manager at Goldblatt's in Addison, Ill.

Harold is retired and owns and operates a camping court near Cloverdale, Ind. He was a department manager for a Sears store in Anderson, Ind. He has two sons, Jerry and David. Willard is partially retired and lives in Marinette, Wis. He was a store manager

for National Foods. He has two sons, Willard, Jr. and Steven. Helen Lewis is partially retired from Mercy Hospital, Champaign, and lives in Pesotum. She has one daughter who lives near Metropolis.

Hardie and Emma Paugh both passed away in 1965 and they were in their eighties.



### ***Peck Family***

The first record of the George Peck family, which was of Dutch origin, was a George Peck who lived in Augusta County, Virginia before 1750. There is no data on him, other than that he took part in the Claypool Rebellion and fought in the Revolutionary War.

His son George, born in 1762, was married to Mary Lancisco. To this union were born nine children. Henry, Jacob, Matilda, John, Nicholas, Enoch who married Elizabeth Ater in 1827, Adonijah, William and Daniel.

Enoch Peck came to Illinois in 1839 from Pick-away, Ohio, by team and wagon to a settlement along the Sangamon River in Willow Branch Township.

Monroe Peck, son of Enoch and Elizabeth Ater Peck, was born and raised in Willow Branch Township. He married Mary Margaret Williams, who was also born in Willow Branch, in 1869. Monroe would buy as many as three or four acres at a time until he had 89 acres where the family home stood. To this union were born four sons: Otto, Irving, Everett and Oren. Otto and Oren remained in Willow Branch Township.

Otto Peck married Mary J. Cornell in 1902 and farmed in this same community. Here they raised their three children: Sylvia "Sib" Higgins, Oreana; Harold E. Peck, Monticello, the present Piatt County Sheriff; and Helen Manges, Sterling. Also living descendants are two grandchildren, William Higgins and Donald E. Peck, and six great-grandchildren, Jeri Higgins Berneking, Steven Higgins, Donna, Jody, Steven and Marcia Peck. Otto Peck passed away in 1942 and Mary J. Peck in 1968.



### ***The Phillips Family***

Jasper (Jap) Armstrong Phillips was born in 1885, at Newburgh, Ind., the youngest of ten children of Price and Emily Van Phillips. Jap first came to Illinois at the age of 13 and worked on a farm near Springfield. He later went into business with his brother in Springfield. He then went to Wisconsin as a manager for Jewel Tea Co. and later worked for H. J. Heinz Company in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. He returned to Illinois to start farming near Maroa. He married Anna Belle Gentry Floyd in 1915. Jap moved to the Cisco area in 1923 where he farmed until 1936 when he moved to Monticello. While farming he was well known for his race horses which were raced at county fairs in Illinois and Indiana.

While farming near Cisco he bought the first combine in the area in 1929 from Albert Miller, the dealer for International Harvester. He was told the combine

would not work in Illinois. One of these scoffers was J. R. Heath, who later sold the machines all over central Illinois. The combine proved so good in the wheat harvest Jap bought the second machine that fall for soybean harvest. The next year he bought the first mechanical corn picker sold in Cisco from J. R. Heath.

In 1938, Jap moved to Cisco as manager of the Implement Company. When Route 47 was built, he built and operated the service station at the north edge of town. He served on the Cisco School Board, was Mayor and served on the Fire Department for 20 years. After selling his business he drove a school bus for 16 years.

He has one step son, W. Ottis Floyd, who married Margory Olson and now lives northwest of Cisco in the Shiloh church area. There are seven grandchildren. A grandson, Jack Floyd, lives in Cisco with the Phillips at the present time. Jack is the present Postmaster. He has been active in the American Legion, serving three times as Post Commander, Post 1181, and as Piatt County Commander and as 19th District Commander. Jack is also a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge No. 965 and a charter member of the V.F.W. of Piatt County, Post 5346.



William G. and Frances Waggoner Pirtle

## *Pirtle*

In 1904, William and Francis Waggoner Pirtle moved from Chrisman to Cisco with their son, Walter. Newton and Raymond were both born in Cisco. For many years the Pirtles farmed and lived in the farm house where Paul Craig now lives.

Walter married Hazel Taylor in 1925 and they have one son, Eugene. One Sunday afternoon, about three years after their marriage, their house was ransacked, and many of their possessions, including the rug on the living room floor and the bed clothes off the bed, were stolen.

Walter has worked in this area all his life, doing mostly cornshelling and hauling. Walter and Hazel had the restaurant for about a year.

Hazel has always been very active in community affairs. She was the first president of the WSCS of the Methodist Church, and the first president of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was a member of the Women's Club, and the Garden Club when gas rationing forced them to disband. She has had many hobbies. Her most memorable job was being a telephone operator. She started working for 9c an hour, and worked up to top wages of 12½c an hour. She also worked at Tylac in Monticello during World War II.

Their son, Walter Eugene, married Audrey Athey in 1956. They have two children, Jean Ann and Gary Eugene.

From 1948 until 1964, Eugene had a Star mail route. He also had a freight route established at the same time. He owned Dancy Brass Co. in Decatur until he started devoting full-time to the Cisco Cob Co. Bud's Barn Antiques, which started out as a hobby for Eugene and P. C. Barnhart about 4 years ago, now requires a lot of his time.

Newton Pirtle married the former Bessie Hilbrant. They had two boys.

Raymond Pirtle and Hildred Lyons were married in 1935. They have two children, Reta Ann and Roy Eugene.

Raymond did trucking and cornshelling in the community until he entered the Army in 1944. Returning home in 1946, he started hauling grain again and did a lot of construction hauling on the interstate highway system. He owned his own trucks until 1972, when he sold out and retired.

Hildred drove a school bus for corn detasseling. She also worked at the Cisco phone company, the grocery store, and is now part-time clerk at the Cisco Post Office.

Reta Ann lives in California and has taught at Brentwood College for seven years.

Roy Eugene at the present, is working at General Electric in Decatur. There he met Willa Arnold, and they were married. They have four children.



## *Rainey Family*

Alexander Rainey and Sara Ewing were married in Antrim County, Ireland in 1867. A few years later they came to America.

They first lived in DeWitt County near Weldon, Illinois. In later years they moved to a farm which they bought northwest of Cisco, Illinois, which is now the Ralph Rannebarger farm. They had a family of eleven children, two of whom died in infancy and Maggie, who died at the age of 5.

Elizabeth, the eldest, was born in Ireland. She married W. O. Wilson. Joseph married Alma Staats. William married Nettie Cornell. Mary married C. E. Parr. James married Mary Ralston. Emma married Elmer Cloud. Cleve married Anna Rinehart. Elmer married Glenna Cornell.

Mrs. Rainey passed away in 1902 and Mr. Rainey in 1911. They were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church near Argenta. All the family lived

near Cisco and Central Illinois, except James, who lived in Iowa for a number of years.

All have passed away except Elmer of Cisco and Cleve of Champaign, Illinois.

The children attended Pleasant Ridge School and later Elmer was a School Director of Pleasant Ridge for many years.



## Rankin

In 1855 James Ezra Rankin (1851-1950), age 4, came from Guernsey Co., Ohio in a covered wagon with his parents, William and Lucinda Minerva Bowman Rankin, and three sisters to Logan County. Later they moved to DeWitt Co., where five other children were born. In 1874 James Rankin, then of Macon Co. married Hulda Bear (1856-1928) of Bearsdale, Illinois. The next year they purchased land one mile north and one-half mile east of Cisco, where their three older children, Grace Rankin Patton (1876-1972), Roy (1880-1965), Nellie Rankin Barker (1882-1971) were born. In 1883 the Rankin family moved to their farm southwest of White Heath, where Chester A. (1886- ), Florence Rankin Kirkland (1891- ), and Noble (1894-1919) were born. This remained the home of the family until 1911, when the parents moved to Monticello. Decendants still living in the Piatt Co. area are Florence R. Kirkland, her children, Dale and Kathryn Kirkland Barbour; Jim, son of Chester; and Lois Barker Leary, Nellie's daughter.



Back row: Mellie Hendrix Rannebarger and Mary Elizabeth Wilson Rannebarger; front row: Earl V., Ralph, Ray and William Marion Rannebarger.

## Rannebarger

William Henry Rannebarger (1826-1898) was the son of Stephen (1802-1876) and Susanna Michel (1801-1864) Rannebarger. There were eleven children born near Columbus, Ohio: William Henry, Adam M., Ann R., Sarah Elizabeth Rannebarger Barber, Stephen T., Jr., Susanna, Harriet Jane, Phillip W., Mary C.,

Joseph G. and John. He moved with his parents to Springfield Illinois in 1851.

William Henry Rannebarger married Elizabeth Barber (1822-1892) in 1847 near Columbus, Ohio at the home of her parents, Elam and Violet Barber. Their only son, William Marion, was three when they moved to Springfield. In the fall of 1864 they moved to a farm northwest of Cisco. The site of the home- stead is still marked by ancient pine trees and beonged to the Rannebarger family, until it became a part of Friend's Creek Regional Park.

William Henry's sister, Sarah Elizabeth, married William Henry Barber, brother of Elizabeth Barber Rannebarger. The Barbers had seven children: Winifred Scott, William, Charles Lafayette, Elizabeth Barber Munch, James, Anna Barber Munch. A brother in the area, Phillip W. Rannebarger, married Jane Carr and they had ten children: Nettie A. Rannebarger Liestman, John K., Stephen T., Maggie A., Stella A., Ennis, Orrin P., Josie Mae, Marion L., Harrison, and Nellie Rannebarger Hainline Bland.

In 1876, William Marion Rannebarger (1848-1920) married Mary Elizabeth Wilson (1858-1937) at the home of her parents, David Keys and Mary Jane Dickey Wilson, granddaughter of William Dickey, Revolutionary War veteran. William Marion and Mary Elizabeth had two children, Earl V. (1877-1951) and Atlee Pearl (1880-1888). Earl was born in a log house.

Being childhood sweethearts at Bethel School, Earl V. Rannebarger married Mellie Hendrix (1878-1969) in 1896 in the home of her parents, James Milford and Melina Elizabeth Massey Hendrix. They started housekeeping a mile from there on Stringtown Lane, where their two sons, Raymond E. (1898-1969) and Ralph (1902- ) were born. They moved north of Cerro Gordo in 1908, then back to Mellie's parents place. Earl raised cattle, sold and traded them. He traded up and down the road and often went out west or south, shipping in by rail. At the age of forty-two Mellie and Earl retired to Cisco. They were active in the Methodist Church. Mellie rode the train to Eastern Star in Decatur, before the chapter in Cisco was chartered. She belonged to Woman's Club and Garden Club. Earl was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Ansar Shrine, Cisco Eastern Star (Charter), Director of the Cisco Co-op Grain Co. and Director of the Gerber State Bank. He sold U.S. War Bonds during World War II.

Both sons continued their father's interest in farming and cattle. They both belonged to the Masonic Lodge, Ansar Shrine, Shrine Club and Argenta Lions. Ralph received his 50 year pin in the Masons. They are members of the Cisco Methodist Church.

Ray married Gladys Ater (1896- ) in 1917 and they lived where the boys were born. Gladys and Ray were charter members of Cisco Easten Star.

Ralph married Aileen Velda Royse (1905- ) in 1928 at her sister's home in Moweaqua. Aileen, a graduate of Decatur Macon County Hospital School of Nursing has been active in the community, belonging to the Enterprise Church then Cisco Methodist, Garden Club, Woman's Club, Eastern Star, North Birth-day Club and Sewing Club. Ralph is a past director of



the Cisco Co-operative Grain Company, past director of Pleasant Ridge School, director of the Gerber State Bank. Ralph still has Black Angus cattle. The first time Aileen remembers seeing him, he was going by her home before school, on horseback, and her father, John Royse, said, "There goes Earl Rannebarger's boys after John Goken's cattle." He was about 9 years old. Their daughter, Patricia Ann Rannebarger Ford (1931- ), a Millikin graduate, was a teacher. Now she and her son, Robert Ralph Ford (1958- ) continue the past generations' interest in farming and cattle. They all live on Stringtown Lane.



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Reason, 1909.

### *Samuel Reason Family*

Samuel W. Reason was born in Tennessee. After his father died, he and his brother, Pearley O. Reason, came with their mother to Illinois. She later remarried. The boys by then were old enough to leave home and find work. Pearly lived with Samuel until his death in 1946. They had two step-sisters, now deceased.

Samuel Reason married Ruth Boyd in Decatur in 1902. (She was born in Kansas, moved to Missouri, then Illinois.) They lived south of Cisco in the Havelly school area. He worked on a farm. While they lived there six sons were born: Elmer, Wayne, Pearley, Floyd, Wilmer and Herbert. One son, Wayne, died when 22 but all the rest saw service in either the Army or Navy, Wayne serving 22 years in the Navy. All are now deceased.

In 1910 they purchased a lot in Cisco with a small home on it, then later a new one was built. Two girls were born to them: Gladys (Mrs. Paul Brighton) and Avis (Mrs. James Eastham), who is deceased.



### *Don Reed History*

Mr. and Mrs. Don Reed came to Cisco in 1958 from Monticello, where they were engaged in farming. They resided in the Paul Brighton home on Dodge Street until they purchased the A. B. Weddle home.

Don Reed is park attendant and part time night security officer at Allerton Park. He is a member of Cisco Craig-Reed Legion Post.

Lucille Reed began community service in the Methodist Church, Legion Auxiliary, Cisco Woman's Club and is presently teaching. Their children, Mary and Gary Reed both attended Cisco and Monticello schools. Mary is working at Burnam City Hospital, Champaign.



### *John David Reed, III*

John David Reed, III (1889-1973), was born in Madison County, Kentucky, the son of John David Reed, II, and Rosa Reeves Reed.

John's father was drowned in the Kentucky River when John was three years old. They swam the river, which was at flood stage, as there was no bridge, and his horse threw him off. His mother and John, with his brothers Everett and Guy, moved in with their grandfather. They lived with him until she married again. They moved to Kentucky until John graduated from Irvine High School, attending college at Berea, Ky. He taught school in the mountains of Kentucky where they paid their teachers by the number of students going to school.

His brother Everett worked in Illinois and wanted him to come to Illinois. He came and worked for Drew Statts for a year and met Olive F. Parr and they were married in 1912. Their first son, John David, IV, was born in 1917 in Cisco. He graduated from Argenta High School enlisting in the Army Air Corps. He was sent from Chanute Field to Nichols Field in the Philippines in 1939. He was there two years when the war broke out. The boys were promised reinforce-



John III and Olive Reed.

ments which they never received, so they fought a losing battle. John David was captured on Corregidor and went through the Bataan Death March, dying at Camp O'Donnel, a Japanese prison camp May 29, 1942. He is buried at the Weldon Cemetery.

Nora Rose, our daughter, was born in Wyoming in 1919. John was asked to come back to Cisco to be Assistant Cashier of the Croninger Bank. The family moved back to Cisco in 1919 where John bought an insurance agency (Reed and Reed) and sold insurance with his bank work. Nora, a registered nurse, is married to Russell C. Jackson, a retired Air Force officer. They live in Cerro Gordo and have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Paul Parr Reed was born in Cisco in 1921. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, enlisting at Chanute Field in 1942. He was sent to the Philippines and Japan. He married Flossie Maurer from Kenney. They live near Cerro Gordo and have two sons and one grandchild.

John was cashier of the Croninger Bank in Cisco from 1919 until the bank closed in 1927. John and Olive then moved to the country near Cisco until 1939 when they moved to a farm near Cerro Gordo. They retired in 1948 and moved to Bement, later moving to Cerro Gordo.



### *Preston and Lucinda Reed*

Lucinda Swarts, daughter of David and Anna Swarts, grew up southeast of Cisco. She married Preston Reed, a worked at Decaur's Staley factory for many years.

Cindy attended Normal School at Normal, Illinois (Illinois State University) after graduation from 8th grade. She taught at Havelly School for several years.



Lucinda and Preston Reed.

The teacher usually roomed with a family living close by and Lucinda did that. Morals and manners were included as a great part of the curriculum. She incorporated these teachings with her Sunday School and church activities.

"Aunt Cindy," as many in the community knew her, was very active in the Methodist Church. She taught Sunday School to many of the grownups of the present community.

Marlyn, their only son, attended Cisco and Argenta Schools. Soon after graduation he married Dorothy Hanson from Maroa. After being employed a few years in Decatur he went to Peoria. From there he moved to Canton and does automotive work.

Marlyn and Dorothy had two children, Billie and Jimmy. Dorothy died in early 1970. Preston died in 1965 and Lucinda in the fall of 1970.



### *Edward Reeser*

Ed Reeser came from a large family who lived on a farm in Pennsylvania at the edge of the Gettysburg battlefield. The strict, hard-working Quaker mother and father taught the family the value of thrift and hard work. The big brick house built by this family over 100 years ago is standing and in good repair as is the stone and wood house constructed by Ed's grandfather Daniel, with the help of Indians.

Life along the Susquahanna River proved too uneventful so Augustus and Edward (the youngest) went to Kansas and took up a claim. They lived in a dugout for two years, but after reckoning with drouth, grasshoppers and locusts they pulled up stakes and came to Illinois. They had learned the art of tile and brick making in Pennsylvania and established a brick yard on ground southwest of Friends Creek Cemetery. In the meantime, Ed met Mary Catherine Williams, daughter of Jackson and Lavinia Williams. Mary was organist at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was in Friends Creek Cemetery. They married and moved into a three room house on the present Reeser farm west of Cisco. Mary had inherited part of the original Joseph Long (her grandfather) land from her mother and she and Ed bought adjoining ground in the years to come. They built a new home and barns. Both were active in school, church, lodge and many other local activities.

Ed Reeser was on the first Board of Directors of the Cisco Grain Company and was a director of the Croninger Bank in Cisco. He was very active in lodge work and was a 32nd degree Mason.

For many years Mary Reeser was a director of Rural Park School (which she named). All their children and several grandchildren attended school there. Often the school teachers boarded at the Reeser farm.

The Reeser children were Opal, Herbert and Irene. Opal married Arthur Hendrix and they raised a family of five children. Their children are Mable (Parrish), James Edward, Pauline (Mulligan), Lucille (Walker), and Dorothea (Moore).



Edward Reeser, 1925.

Herbert married Jessie Sellig of Niantic, Illinois, who taught at Rural Park School. Herbert farmed extensively and raised livestock in the vicinity of the home farm all his life. He farmed Rannebarger half-section southwest of Cisco 32 years, also farming his own farms and the home place, in later years. Herbert and Jessie's children are Mary Lotus (Moore), of Decatur, Jacqueline (Westerman) of Argenta, and Larry, who passed away in 1972. In 1952 Herbert and Jessie remodeled the Reeser home and Jessie lives there now. Keith Westerman, Jacqueline's husband, farms the place.

Irene lived for several years in California and married Rex Horning there.

After coming to the farm west of Cisco, Ed lived on the same farm the rest of his life. Mary lived her last few years in Denver, Colo., with their daughter, Opal.



## *The Reeves Family*

William C. (Dick) Reeves was born in a log cabin east of Cisco, in 1861. His parents, John and Angeline Ross Reeves were married on a steamboat on their way west. They eventually settled in Piatt County. When asked by her father to move farther west to Kansas, Angeline refused, saying, "We are going to be Illinois folks!"

Dick Reeves married Eva Longenbaugh in 1888. They had three children, Bert L., Everett and Ralph. Dick lived near Cisco for many years and farmed with horses all his life. On at least one occasion, he bought a lame horse for 25c, doctored it until it was well and sold it for 25 dollars. His horses were well trained. When plowing corn, he would start them down the row, then take a nap. At the end of the row the horses would stand until he woke up, turned them to start on another row and the routine would

start again. His motto was, "If you can't ride faster than you can walk, you'd better get off." Just three days before he died at the age of 84, he had ridden several miles on horseback. Dick and Eva celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1938.

Bert L. Reeves married Anna Elizabeth Cosby in 1916. Bert served as teacher, principal and superintendent in Illinois schools for 26 years before retiring to a farm near Cisco in 1936. While in Cisco he served as director of the Piatt County Farm Bureau, and the Piatt County Service Co., and as Chairman of the Piatt Co. ACSC. They were active in church. Elizabeth (Betty) was a music teacher before moving to Cisco. In later years, Bert and Betty were active in Eastern Star. Betty was a choir director, member of Woman's Club, Home Bureau, and Sewing Club. They had four children: Bert L. Jr., Elizabeth Jean, William C. (Bill), and Marjorie Ann.

Jean was an instructor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Univ. of Ill. for many years. She lives in Cisco. Bill attended the Univ. of Ill. He died suddenly at age 42 in 1963. Marjorie graduated from Ill. State Univ. and has an M.S. degree from George Peabody College. She is the area specialist and teacher consultant in vocal music for the Springfield Schools. She is listed in the 1973-74 edition of "Outstanding Educators in America."

Everett, son of Dick and Eva Reeves, graduated from Illinois State Univ. and taught in Illinois schools until his death in 1927. He married Cassie N. Cross in 1917. She was selected "Mother of the Year" in 1957. Everett and Cassie had four children: Colin, Richard, Margaret and Robert, and thirteen grandchildren.

Ralph (1900- ), the third child of Dick and Eva Reeves, was born on a farm northwest of Cisco and lived there till his death in 1969. He married Ruth Dressler of Weldon in 1930. They were parents of three children, Frances, Ronald, and Lois. Ralph served on the School Board for several years and also was quite active in the Methodist Church.

Frances graduated from Normal University and has a master's degree from the U. of I. She and Louis Kallenbach, Jr., have four children: Larry, Lynn, Donald and Darren (deceased). Frances teaches in the Deland Weldon school and Louis is the co-owner



Eva and William C. Reeves.



of the Deland Locker Plant. Ronald married Jan Ruby and they have two children, Rhonda and Shawn. Ronald is a farmer and still farms the Reeves home place, purchased in 1886. Lois married Bruce Cripe. Bruce was killed in 1972 and Lois and their three children live on a farm southeast of Cerro Gordo.



Mr. and Mrs. Jurko Remmers in their 1917 Chalmers.

### *Peter Remmers*

Peter Remmers and Anna Bruns were born in Germany, met in the United States, and married. In 1881 they moved from Logan County to a farm northwest of Cisco where they lived until they retired to DeLand. Their son, John, and his wife moved to the farm. Their son, Harold, still lives on the same farm. Peter's son, Peter and family, lived on a farm east of Cisco. Later they bought a farm near Milmine and moved there, when Henry married Gladys Souders. He moved to the farm east of Cisco and lived there until John Remmers bought the farm and his daughter, Evelyn, and her husband, Max Campbell, moved there. Their son, Danny Campbell and family live there at present.

Jurko Remmers, the oldest son, lived on Stringtown Lane for 16 years and then moved to their farm east of Cisco where Floyd (Bud) Remmers now lives. The only Remmers living in Cisco at this time are Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Remmers and their son, Joe and his family. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Huisinga, Jr., lives north of Cisco as does his son, Dale, and his family; and daughter and family, the Richard Robsons.

Peter and Anna Remmers had nine children. Jurko married Bertha Wiggers and they had seven children: Anna, Clifford, Bertha, Wendalina, Margaret, Harold and Fred who married Othello Taylor. Jurko later married Helen Bowdre and their children were Hartford, who married Virginia Gillespie, and Floyd who married Joan Hilgendorf. Peter's oldest daughter, Mary, married Bert Huisinga and they had eight children in the DeLand area. Two, who live in the area are Bert, Jr., who married Geneva Goken, and John who married Bernice Olson, then Hilma Bowdre. Peter's son John, married Grace Swisher and had three children: Ernest married Maber Wohlmyer, Mrs. Max (Evelyn) Campbell, Harold married Doris Gaskill. The third son,

Peter Remmers, married Fannie Lubbers and their children are Ann Wood, Opal, Mrs. Park (Pearl) Erdley, Pete Jr., and LaVerne. Anna Remmers married Eike Lubbers and had five children. Katie Remmers married Otto Lubbers and had two children. Fannie Remmers married Lub Lubbers. Jennie Remmers married Talbert Heller. Henry Remmers married Gladys Souders and their children are Imogene and Richard.



### *Dr. G. G. Rhodes Family*

When Dr. G. G. Rhodes came to Cisco to practice medicine in 1942, he remodeled the inside of the small building owned by A. B. Weddle just north of the barber shop. Besides a small reception room, examination and drug room, there was a small bedroom at the back where he lived for about three months. He married Eloise Wilkinson, R.N., whom he met while they were both at Jackson Park Hospital in Chicago, he as a resident and she a student nurse. She became his office nurse. A son, Robert William Rhodes, was born in Cisco.

The doctor developed a good practice. He took some of his patients to neighboring hospitals, but this was at a time when there were still house calls to make and some home deliveries for babies. In 1944 they felt the need for more room and a modern office, so they moved to Maroa for 10 years, after which he entered the service. When that ended, he continued his specialization in gynecology and obstetrics, locating in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where they reside.



### *Burr Rinehart Family*

Burr Rinehart (1882-1955) came to Cisco when he was sixteen years old. He was born near Argenta, being the son of John Rinehart and Hannah Gisinger Rinehart. Burr married Anna Adams. They had three children: Leonard (1907-1953), Frances (1912- ), and Bruce (1919- ). Anna died in 1928. Burr worked with the railroad, was janitor for the school and also the Methodist Church.

Leonard Rinehart married Pearl Nicholson. Their only son, Wayne, married Jane Morfey. Their children are Wayne and Bruce.

As their mother died while they were young, Frances helped raise her younger brother, Bruce. By her first marriage, Frances has a son, Dale Liestman, who married Doris Irvin. They have two children, Kim and Greg. Dale is with General Cable Co. Frances is married to Melvin Imel. She works at Kirby Hospital and Annex. They live in Cisco. Bruce married an English girl and lives in England.



Do you remember I'll Walk A Mile for a Camel treasure hunt clue? Also, when someone saw part of the clues being hidden for the hunt?

## *The George Rinehart Family*

George Rinehart (1851-1896) married Mary Elizabeth Cloud (1854-1927). Their parents came to Illinois in covered wagons from Ohio and Virginia. They lived a mile north of Havelly School. They had three children, Oscar, Jessie and Anna.

Oscar (1879-1954) married Florence Hacker (1880-1954). They moved to Iowa, where they reared five children: Bertie, Harold, Clinton, Lucille and Nellie. They died within a few hours of each other and had a double funeral.

Jessie (1880-1964) married William Mintun. To this union, two children were born, Berlyn and Vira. William died and she later married Walter Stackhouse. They had one daughter, Maxine. He died, and she later married William Stilabower. They had one daughter, Bessie Mildred, who died at 15 months.

Anna (1887-1973) married Cleveland Rainey. They moved to Iowa a few years, then came back to Champaign. They had two children, Evelyn and Paul, who both live at Champaign with their families.



## *The Ripperdan Family*

Jason and Mabel Ripperdan came from Indiana in 1918 to an Allerton Farm southeast of Cisco. Jason worked on the farm and I did the housework which meant cooking, washing, and ironing. There were eight in our family, and four hired men. Cooking for so many people three times a day took a lot of food. This was in the time of World War I, and one thing we didn't get much of was sugar; but we soon learned to use corn sugar. One thing that stays uppermost in my mind was seeing six teams of four horses each, come in from the field and the big measures of corn that it took to feed them.

Inez was born in 1919 and Ivan Dean was born in 1926. The following year the family settled in Cisco. Jason worked at Evans Elevator until it was destroyed by fire, then he went to work at the Cisco Cooperative Grain Company. In 1942, Jason was appointed Road Commissioner. He resigned in 1950 when elected Sheriff of Piatt County for one term. Jason was on the school board when the gymnasium was built as a WPA project and when Oak Grove School was consolidated into the Cisco District No. 93. When Cisco voted to have water piped into every home in 1950, Jason was the town mayor. The following fall we moved to Monticello where Jason served as Sheriff, then as assessor in Monticello Township until he passed away in 1964.

We were members of the Methodist Church and I was Superintendent of the Primary Dept. for years. I was the Piatt County Chairman of Red Cross when we entered the Blood Bank Program and have participated in 4-H Club work for 35 years. Since Jason's death, I spend my summers with Inez and the winters with Ivan Dean.

Both Inez and Ivan Dean attended Cisco Grade School and graduated from Monticello High. Inez is a Registered Nurse and works at Burnham City Hospital. She married Fred Werts, and they live on a farm south of Urbana. Ivan Dean joined the Navy in 1944. He married Betty Maple and they have one daughter, Lanette. He attended mortician school and now resides and has a funeral home in Mulberry Grove.

—by Mabel Ripperdan



## *Robb*

In 1912 the W. E. Robb family moved from Ivesdale to a farm southwest of Cisco. The farm was known as "The River Farm." There were ten in the family. All of the W. E. Robb family were members of the Cisco Methodist Church.



The Root Family in 1955: Vera, Tom, Jim and Fay.

## *Fay H. Root Family*

It was in 1948 that Fay Howe Root moved his family from Bloomington, Illinois, into the house he had bought on Dodge Street in Cisco. Fay and his wife, Vera, had two sons, Thomas Woodrow and James Paul. Fay had accepted the position with the University of Illinois as Instructor in Camp Management, with his office to be at the 4-H Memorial Camp adjacent to Allerton Park. In 1952, he was appointed Assistant of Park and Camp Management and put in charge of the grounds at Allerton Park in addition to the 4-H Memorial Camp.

Both sons graduated from Monticello High School and both received Bachelor Degrees from the University of Illinois. Tom has masters degrees in Forestry and in Botany. Jim has a masters in Information Science. Tom taught at Blackhawk Junior College. Jim is a career man in the Air Force.

Tom married Mary Hutchinson and they have two daughters, Lisa and Katie. Jim married Ann Dyson Sykes in Dawlish, Devon, England and they have two children, Ben and Jennifer.

Fay and Vera had both taught in high school in Rockton, Illinois. After they were married, Fay also taught in El Paso and Bloomington, Illinois. Fay was a member of the Monticello Unit School Board for seventeen years. He served for a time on the Village Board and was on the Willow Branch Library Board. He belonged to the Cisco Chamber of Commerce, was a Willow Branch Township auditor, served on the Steering Committee for Parkland Junior College and on the Piatt County Zoning Board.

The family members were affiliated with the Methodist Church. Vera was organist for several years. She directed several choirs, both adult and children. In 1949, when the church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary, she wrote and directed a pageant giving the church's history. Vera taught in Cisco from 1956-1972. After retiring, she spent five months doing research and interviews to help in the publication of the Cisco Centennial Book.

The Roots built a home on the west side of Eldon Street in 1954. This was their home until they moved to Carlock, Illinois, in 1973 where they have completed a new home.



Back row: Ordella Royse Goken, Geneva Goken, Ira Royse, Esker Royse; front row: John Goken, Oressa Goken, Mary Royse, George Royse and Lucy Royse.

## George Royse

George Royse was born near Edinburg, Indiana in 1845, son of Aaron and Elizabeth McQuire Royse. He was one of thirteen children. In 1874 he attended the National Normal University of Ohio. He married Mary Elizabeth McKee, who was born near Edinburg in 1876. They started farming on a farm northeast of Cisco. To this union were born four children:

Ordella, Lucy, Esker, and Ira. Ordella married John Goken, Esker married Fred Davey and Lucy and Ira never married. They lived on the farm until 1905, when they moved to Jacksonville.

John and Ordella Goken moved to the Royse farm. They had two daughters, Geneva Esker and Oressa Lucille. Geneva married Bert W. Huisinga of DeLand in 1924 and they had two children, Beulah Ledoris and Dale Bert. Beulah married Lewis Richard Robson of Franklin in 1948 and live north of Cisco. They have three children, Linda Kay, Duane Richard and Marilyn Ann. Linda married Dennis D. Hendrix and they have a daughter, Jennifer Lynn. Dale married Nancy Lee Heath of Monticello in 1955. They live northeast of Cisco on the George Royse farm. They have four children: Robert Dale, David Alan, Gary Douglas and Amy Jo.

Oressa married John Leslie McQueen of Normal in 1928 and had one son, John Leslie. He married Sue Pool and they have two children. They live in Ohio.



## Hiram Royse

In 1865 Hiram (1840-1900) and Mary Ellen Long Royse (1844-1917) came to the Cisco area after living near Maroa. They came in a covered wagon from Indiana accompanied by their brother and sister, William and Marietta Royse Long. Another brother, Phillip Long, was killed in the Civil War. Hiram, the oldest son of Aaron V. (1818-1887), grandson of a Revolutionary soldier, and Elizabeth McQuire Royse (1820-1902), were born in Edinburg, Indiana. Mary Ellen was born in Ohio, daughter of Young and Katherine Weaver Long.

Hiram and Mary Ellen had nine children: Emily (1863-1943), Amanda (1865-1934), Albert (1867-1929), Alice (1869-1957), Ella (1870-1878), Clara (1873-1895), Josie (1875-1945), John Aaron (1878-1950), and Harve (1883-1936). The family lived northeast of Cisco for several years, dividing the farm so the boys were able to farm. In 1895, Hiram, Mary Ellen, Josie, John Aaron and Harve moved to Monticello. Hiram gave the ground for Enterprise Church. He was one of those instrumental in getting the drainage ditch through that area, draining the land to Friend's Creek, John and Harve Royse were musical, being self-taught. John played the violin, while Harve played the accordion, oboe, cornet and clarinet. Harve had the first cylinder phonograph in the area and cut some of his own records.

Emily Catherine married Armster M. Doss in 1878 and they farmed in the area until his death in 1906, then the family moved to Monticello. Their children were: Charles (1879-1935), who married Saddle Higgins in 1905 and had three children; William (1885-1965), who married Tona Ahlrich in 1908 and had two children; John (1888-1955) married Mable Musick in 1907 and they had two children; Marion (1889-1923) who married Lula Leistman; Bessie





The John Royse Family, back row: Ralph Rannebarger, Violet Falck Royse, Wayne Aaron Royse, Albert V. Leach; front row: Aileen Royse Rannebarger, Patricia Ann Rannebarger, Helena Bruns Royse, John Aaron Royse, Thomas Royce Leach and Opal Royse Leach.

(1892- ) who married Earl Norris in 1916 and had one son; Elbert (1900-1946) married Frances Williams in 1923 and had a son.

Amanda (1865-1934) married Frederick Swam in 1891. Albert E. (1867-1929) married Eulala Winger in 1891. They moved to Indiana in 1898. They had eight children: Sylvia, Edith, Edna, Olscoe, Ray, Floyd, Earl and Katherine.

Mary Alice married John W. Stillabower. They had five children: Harvey, Mrs. Claude (Mary) Smith, Perley, Florence, and Mrs. Charles (Frances) Spainhour. Harvey (1892- ) and Mary Stillabower Smith (1896- ) made their home with their Uncle Harve until his death. Clara married William Odaffer. Josie married Oscar Olson and they had two children, Mrs. John (Bernice) Huisinga (1908-1944), and a son who died in infancy.

John Aaron Royse married Helena Bruns (1880-1968), daughter of Herman Evers and Angie Evans Bruns, in 1902. Herman and Angie, emigrating from Hanover, Germany in 1868 to Logan County, Illinois, settled in Piatt County about 1884, then to Cumberland County about 1900. Their children were Aleada Bruns Hershberger, Herman, Helena Bruns Royse, William Anna Bruns Holsapple, and Etta. John Aaron (whose names trace back as family names into the 1600's) and Helena lived on the home farm until his mother and brother returned to the farm. Then they moved to his farm northeast of Cisco. They had three children: Opal Elva (1902-1967), Aileen Velda (1905- ) and Wayne Aaron (1908- ), who attended Enterprise School. Wayne attended the Cisco High School and they all graduated from Monticello High School. In 1934 Helena and John moved to a farm at Lodge for two years, then to the Weldon area, retiring to their home in Weldon in 1948.

Opal attended Normal, graduating from Millikin, and taught school, often driving on the shoulders of the roads during wet weather. She married Albert V. Leach and they had one son, Thomas Royse Leach,

Chicago. Aileen, a graduate nurse from D.M.C.H., married Ralph Rannebarger in 1928. Their daughter, Patricia Rannebarger Ford, and her son, Robert Ralph Ford, live near them north of Cisco. Wayne Aaron attended Wesleyan. He married Violet Falck, a graduate of Normal, in 1934. She was from Melvin. Their son, Norman Wayne (1946), graduated from Sam Houston University. They all reside in Houston, Texas. Wayne retired from Brown and Root Electrical Engineering Firm in 1973 after 26 years.

Like his father, Hiram, John Royse served on the Enterprise School Board. John was a director of the Cisco Co-operative Grain Company. Helena's extra interests were her flowers and chickens. She would have said like her daughter Aileen, "It isn't a green thumb, but a dirty one." She was a member of the Triple C Club. The family members were active in the Enterprise Church, transferring to the Cisco Methodist Church, when the two churches merged.

Harve and his mother, Mary Ellen, moved back to the homestead in 1904. Harve farmed there until his death in 1936.



## Sago Family

William Thomas Sago (1874-1958) was born in Kentucky a son of Abraham and Joanne Roach Sago. His wife, Minnie Johnson (1879-1961), daughter of Wyatt and Nancy McKinnis Johnson was born in White County. They were married in Carmi, Ill. in 1909. They came north and worked the L. E. Kistler farm in Macon County. In 1911 Tom started farming on the Dr. Pattengill farm southwest of Cisco and farmed until 1933. They had two children, Mildred and Orville.

Orville Kermit Sago attended Havelly Grade School and graduated from Argenta High School. He married June Hiser of Argenta in 1930. They lived on the farm until 1956 when they moved to Cisco. They have four children: Robert, who died in infancy; William Con (1933- ) who is the manager of the Cisco Co-op



Minnie and Thomas Sago

Grain Company which he has been associated with for nearly twenty years. He married Marilyn Noecker, daughter of Ray and Vera Noecker. They have four children: Cheryl, Sandra, Jeffrey and Jon. Doris Ann (1937- ) a graduate of Julia N. Burnham School of Nursing married John Hulett son of Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Hulett. They have three children, Dennis, Candace and Derek and live in Normal. Janet (1944- ) attended Brown Business College and married Joseph W. Felts, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Felts of Monticello. They have two daughters, Malora Jodene and Amanda Denise. Melora was born in Stuttgart, Germany. They now live in Monticello. Bill, Doris and Janet all graduated from Monticello High School.

Midred (1913- ) graduated from Argenta High School. She married Orville Browning from Cerro Gordo. He died in 1952. They had five children: Robert Gerald, Donna Jean, Thomas Mark, Carol Walters, and Jon Rodgers. Mildred now lives in Decatur, Ill.



## Salisbury

Ed Salisbury and Lettie Eubank were married June 10, 1911. To this union six children were born, two of whom died in early childhood, Evelyn Owens and Esther Votaw of Decatur; Edith Cox, Galesburg; Maxine Grady, California; and Lucille Herring of Delaware.

Mr. Salisbury did all kinds of machine work, threshing, corn shelling, tiling, etc. The Salisbury's left Cisco and went to Decatur to live about 1936.



## The Sample Family

We (Glen and Catherine) Sample are both natives of Indiana. We moved from Homer, Illinois to the Cisco area in May 1964. We resided west of Cisco until purchasing the Preston-Lucienda Reed property in October, 1970. Glen is employed by the Norfolk and Western Railroad. We celebrated our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary January 11, 1974. We are the parents of five sons. Glenn Jaye (1950), employed by Wagner Castings and resides in Maroa with his wife, Cynthia, and daughter. Alan Raye (1951), a Norfolk and Western engineer, resides in Argenta with his wife, Mary, and daughters. Jeffrey (1953), is in the United States Army at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, living in Waukegan, Illinois, with his wife Robin. Jerry (1955) graduated from Monticello High School in June 1973, and Ronald (1959).



## Remember When . . .

There were boxing and wrestling matches held at the old livery barn. The keeper of the stable would put straw on the ground and cover it with a tarpaulin to be used as a mat.



Fred and Bertha Shaff

## Shaff

Michael Shaff (1835-1912) and Jennetta, nee Doane (1830-1899) came to Cisco in 1872 from Circleville, Ohio. Michael's father, Frederick was born in Pennsylvania and settled in Ohio. Frederick's spouse was Elizabeth, nee Jordan who bore seven children, one of which was Michael. Other children remained in Ohio; a daughter, Nancy, married Edwin Doane and also migrated to Piatt County. Michael married Jennetta Doane in 1860 in Ohio. There were five children: Ida, Cora, John, Clinton and Frederick. The daughters, Ida and Cora, married farmers, George W. Reynolds and Elmer McKinney respectively. More about the three sons later.

As a farmer Michael chose to follow in his father's footsteps and the 180 acre place south of Cisco, became his home. The bricks used in building the house were kilned nearby.

In addition to his farming activities, Michael served as Township Road Commissioner and as a school director. In his later years he moved to Cisco where he resided at his death.

Michael's son John (1865-1927), graduated from medical school and became a physician and surgeon. His wife was Josephine N. and their children were Dwight, Robert and Mary Jeannette. Son Clinton was also a physician. He chose to spell the family name — Shaff, who has a son Paul B. and a daughter Lois.

Son Frederick (1872-1942) stayed in Cisco after the other children of Michael Shaff left the village. After attending Normal School in McLean County, he served an apprenticeship in a drug store, his older brother, John, operated in Cisco. He conducted a drug store business for 25 years or so. The location of the first store was on the east side of Main Street. Later it was moved to the west side of the street where it was the middle of a three store building. Fred served as a member of the School Board and on the Village or Town Board. The drug store was closed in the early thirties. Fred, his wife, and Ruth moved to Monticello.

Fred was married to Bertha Ann Loveless in 1901. Her home had been in Effingham County, Illinois. There were three children: Ralph L. (1907- ), Jeanette N. (1910- ), and Ruth V. (1922- ).

In her earlier years, Bertha Shaff operated a millinery shop in Cisco. She was active in the Women's Foreign Society, the Women's Club and several other village activities. The Cisco Public Library was started with several dozens of books on about five shelves in the back of her husband's drug store.

Frederick Shaff's children attended Cisco schools and Monticello High. Ralph went to the University of Illinois for one year and worked in insurance until retirement in 1970.

Ralph was married in 1935 to Irene Emerson, a graduate of Normal whose home was in Stonington. Ralph and Irene have four children: Carla (1939), Nancy (1941), Frederick (1943) and Richard (1946).

Jeanette, later known as Jane, attended Normal University and graduated at the University of Illinois. She taught in Cisco and Cerro Gordo public schools. In 1937 she met and married a fellow teacher, Jewett (Kep) Kempley of Kankakee. They retired from the Pendleton, Oregon, school system. Their two children are Judie (1939) and Jan (1943).

Fred Shaff's youngest child, Ruth, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the U. of I., then moved to Chicago where she is employed by Peoples Gas Company.



Mary, Parke and Jason Simer

### *Simer Family*

The Jason Simer family, originally from near Salem, moved to Cisco about 1902 from McLean County. As a young woman (Mary Bell) May Simer had attended Normal School at Carbondale and taught

in Marion County. The three sons of theirs: Stafford, Dorr and Parke, attended Cisco Grade School where Jason Simer taught a few years.

After leaving Cisco for a time, the family moved to a small farm south of Cisco. All three boys went to Illinois State Normal School and taught in different rural schools in Piatt County. Parke taught in Cisco 3 years with 1 year as principal.

Stafford was first assistant superintendent of Piatt county schools under Charles McIntosh. Dorr served in the Army during World War I and Parke joined the Navy in 1917. In 1918 Mary and Jason Simer moved to Monticello where he served in the county treasurer's office and as an assessor. Stafford graduated from Millikin University. Dorr received a masters degree from University of Chicago. Parke obtained a Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois, where he was later on the medical staff as professor of anatomy.

Stafford married Helen Walker of Clinton. Their daughter, Martha, is wife of Air Force Major Kent L. McDaniel, Hanscom Field, Mass. Their children are: Kerry, Kimlin and Kirk. Dorr married Ann Huisinga of DeLand. Their son, Dorr and his wife, Jean Feltz, of Chicago, live on a farm near Beason. Their children are: Donna, Dick, Karen, Judy and Robert.



Who remembers Cranes and Herons being found here, finding snail shells, hearing of Dead Sea or Buffalo Wallows?



### *The Snyder-Carroll Family*

Floyd Snyder and family moved to Cisco in the spring of 1941 from Mt. Zion. They moved on the Pattengill farm south of Cisco. The Snyders were the parents of two children, Keith and Anita May. Floyd died in 1967.

In 1959, Keith married Nancy Reed of Strasburg. They live on a farm near Lakewood and are parents of three children.

In 1942, Anita May and Kenneth L. Carroll were married while he was serving in the U.S. Army. They are farmers and lived one mile west of Cisco until recently purchasing and moving into the Jerry Miller home east of Cisco. They are the parents of five children: Dean, Darlene, Danny, Elaine, and Krista.

Dean married Beverly Wileaver in 1965 and have two children, Kori Lynn and Darin Dean. They live southwest of Cisco on the Edwards farm.

Darlene married Joe Smith in 1966. They have two children, Heather Rae, and Jared Andrew. They reside in Kewanee.

Danny Carroll, a farmer, recently married Barbara Dyke of Monticello. They reside in the home place that his parents just moved from. It is the Ethel McCollister Roberts farm.



## Stephens Family

Don and Margaret Stephens and their two children, Terry and Amy Jo moved from Decatur to Cisco in 1968. In 1971 Brian was born.

Don was born and raised in Argenta and graduated from Argenta High School. Margaret was born and raised in Edwardsville, Ill., and moved to Hammond in 1956. They were married in 1963 in Hammond.

In March 1973 they reorganized the Cisco Cub Scouts, Pack 100. Don is Cubmaster and Margaret is den mother.



## The William Stilabower Family

William Stilabower (1874-1943) came to Illinois from Indiana. He married Jessie Stackhouse (1880-1964), a widow with three children: Berlyn and Vira Minton and Maxine Stackhouse. They had one daughter, Mildred, who died at 15 months.

Mr. Stilabower operated a butcher shop in Cisco for many years. He bought cattle from the local farmers and did his own butchering out in the country. Big cakes of ice were bought in Monticello and stored in sawdust in a building behind the butcher shop. During threshing time he delivered meat and ice early in the mornings — by horse and buggy — to the farmers

Berlyn (1902- ) married Musa Sheets (1906-1969). He lives in Wisconsin. Vira (1906- ) married Russell Likins (1905- ) and lives in Oreana. Their son, Gary, is married; has one son and a daughter and they live in Decatur. Maxine (1909- ) married Joseph Voightritter (1906- ) and lives in Detroit. They have twin sons, Donald and Ronald.



## Stuckey Family

Peter and Julia Ann Burget Stuckey came to Cisco from Asheville, Ohio. Peter was born in Germany in 1836 and emigrated to America from Bern, Switzerland at the age of seven, along with his parents and one brother and two sisters.

They came to Cisco with their five children: Sarah Jane, George, Ed, Katheryn (Katie) and Mary Etta. One of their homes was the residence now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Vern Danison. Peter operated a meat market in a building next door to the building occupied at the present time by "Bud's Barn" antique store. The two sons, Ed and George, operated a grocery store at one time in a building where the antique store is now located.

Ed Stuckey was married to Fannie Rippel, who ran a millinery store on Main street of Cisco. Later he went to Decatur.

George Stuckey married Emma Mosgrove and had five children: Walter, Lewis, Ann, Harold and Madie, who died at an early age.

Katheryn (Katie) Stuckey married F. C. Young and had one daughter, Edith (*see Young or Barnhart history*).

Sarah Jane Stuckey married Alexander Perkins of Cerro Gordo, and had eight children.

Mary Etta Stuckey married Loton Williams of Cisco. They had six children (*see Williams history*).



## Sullivan Family

Clarence Russell (Pete) Sullivan was born in 1892 to George and Salinda Barrett Sullivan in the small town of Newburg, being the youngest of eight children. Salinda will be remembered for the rugs she wove on her loom. Pete lived there while working in the brick yards and distillery. When he married Gladys E. Six, daughter of James Warren and Sarah Jane Six, he worked for Argenta township, then farmed east of Argenta before moving to Cisco. Pete was a blacksmith for a time, then worked for the J. F. Loveless Co., the W. H. Jones Implement Co., and A. E. Miller Trucking Co. While working for Mr. Jones and standing at the top of a windmill he was repairing, the ladder slipped from its mooring and he fell to the ground with it, receiving only a few bruises and a sprained thumb. He managed the Cisco Garage for several years. After living in Louisiana for a time, they moved to Decatur where he had his own sheet metal shop with his oldest son.

Pete and Gladys Sullivan reared eight children: (all three sons served in W.W. II) Paul Dean lives in Decatur; Doris, widow of the late Gene Conner, lives in Cisco; and Kathleene married James R. Blickensderfer. They live in California and have three children. Donna married Thomas E. Edwards and they now live on a farm north of Milmine. Merwin W. Sullivan lives in California and has four children. Chrystyne lives in Cisco with her husband Earl Benson. They have four children: David; Linda and husband Dean



Sullivan Family, 1946, front row: Donna Sullivan Edwards, Kathleene Sullivan Blickensderfer, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Sullivan, Doris Sullivan Conner; back row: Chrystyne Sullivan Benson, Paul Dean, C. Russell, Jr., Merwin and Carol Sullivan Justice.

Kerns live in Cisco and have three children; Kenneth; and Becky. C. Russell Sullivan, Jr., lives in Indiana and has two daughters. Carol (Mrs. George T. Justice) lives in Decatur and has three children.

Russell (Pete) Sullivan passed away in 1971 and Gladys Sullivan in 1970.



Fred and Amanda Royse Swam.

## *Fred Swam*

Fred Swam (1866-1924) married Amanda Royse (1865-1934) in 1891. Amanda was the daughter of Hiram and Ellen Long Royse. After their marriage they farmed northeast of Cisco in the Enterprise area, Fred having served on the school board in 1890. It was here that their two sons were born: Roy (1893-1966) and Clarence (1897-1957). Before the birth of Roy there had been a terrible ice storm, so John Royse, Amanda's brother, skated to Cisco to get the doctor, who in turn skated back.

Roy married Lula Wiggins and they had two sons, Erwin and Edwin. They were born in Cisco. Clarence married Eva Welch.

Fred moved into Cisco, buying the Perley Maxhiemer home to live in. He built the brick garage, known as the Swam building. In this building was where the first dynamo that gave Cisco its first electric lights.

Later the Swam boys and their families lived in Decatur.



## *The Swarts Family*

Jacob Swarts and wife Elizabeth immigrated to the Cisco area from Virginia in the late 1850's. Settled on 96 acres as a farmer and carpenter in Willow Branch Township across from Shady Nook School.

To this union was born David, Sylvester, John, Minnie, and Alice.

John and Minnie never married, but stayed on the home place to farm after the death of the parents, Jacob, who died in 1885 and Elizabeth who lived until 1909. Alice married Moses Dodd and lived on 40 acres adjoining the home place. In the early 1930's, Robert Allerton purchased these two farms and incorporated it into his holdings where the Sun Singer now stands.

Sylvester and David learned the carpentry and masonry trade from their father and several buildings in the town of Cisco are monuments to their ability. One of the buildings now standing which was built by David Swarts, is the house in the southwest part of Cisco owned by Glenn Howard.

Sylvester and his family moved to the Argenta community in 1910.

David married Anna Eubank and to this union was born Francis, Lucinda, Arva, Ina and Everett.

Ina died in early childhood. Francis, rural mail carrier and carpenter, started carrying mail by horse and buggy in 1906. He was too young to be legally appointed as permanent carrier, but went ahead to carry until he was of legal age in 1908.

He married Louie Cook from Argenta. Their children were Harley, Thelma, Herald and David. He retired in 1948 after carrying mail 42 years and died in 1959.

The Francis Swarts family lived in the house on St. Charles St., now occupied by the Delbert Williams family. All the Swarts children were born in this home.

These children all attended Cisco schools and have since branched out to many communities and vocations.

Harley went to Louisiana. He returned to the Cisco area after a few years but now lives in Lincoln and works for Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. His son, Anthony, is in the transportation business and daughter, Sharon, is a nurse.



The Swarts Family, seated: David and Anna; standing: Arva Swarts Wright, Francis S., Everett S. and Lucinda Swarts Reed.

Thelma married Telvin Tuggle, a teacher. They have three daughters. Linda, a registered nurse, Carol and Harriett. Thelma is also a registered nurse and works at Carle Hospital at Urbana.

Herald served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was wounded and received the Purple Heart Award, marrying Sally Edwards from Weldon. Herald is in general carpentry and construction work. Their son is Michael, who works for Weldon Fertilizer Company. He has two sons, Andy and Timothy. Mike lives in Farmer City with his wife Judy.

David attended Monticello High School and served in the Navy during World War II. He married Patricia Bennett of Monticello in 1951.

Their children are Mark, Brenda and Tamara Dea and Teresa Lea, twin daughters.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

### *John Taylor*

John and Daisy Taylor, natives of Spencer County, Indiana, moved to a farm near Cisco in 1916 with their four daughters, Hazel, Betty, Othella, and Norma. He farmed in the area until 1951, when they retired and moved into town, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Taylor died in 1960, and Mrs. Taylor in 1963.

Hazel Taylor, the oldest daughter, married Walter Pirtle. They live in Cisco, and so does their only son, Eugene, who married Audrey Athey. They have two children, Jean Ann and Gary.

Betty was married to C. J. Clapp, and died when open heart surgery was performed in 1952. Their only son, Ted, married Linda Garner, and has two sons. Ted is a Hospital Administrator in Ft. Lauderdale.

Othella married Fred C. Remmers and lives in Cisco. Their oldest daughter, Norma, is married to Bruce Miles. They live in Maroa with their five children: Debra, Tammy, Connie, Cheryl, and Edward.

Fred P. Remmers is married to Neila Eads and has two daughters, Medea and Yvette. Joe Remmers married Linda Danison and they are Cisco residents. Cathy Remmers married Jim Fink. They and their son, Jared, reside in rural Cisco.

Norma married Warren Toon and lives in Gulfport, Mississippi. They have two daughters, Janice and Betty. Janice married Bruce Norman and lives in Georgia with their two daughters. Betty Maureen married Michael Coker and lives in Mississippi.

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### *The Turner Family*

John Adrian Turner was born to Taylor and Ellen Turner in Bradfordsville, Kentucky in 1884 and married Ethel Jarboe in 1905 in Louisville, Kentucky. They came to Illinois and he helped build the air fields in Rantoul and Belleville. In 1917 they came to Cisco and farmed in the area the rest of their lives. They had eight children.

Ella Mae is married to Herbert Kay and lives in Arizona. Ambrose married Mildred Van Fosson of Argenta. They live near Hannibal, Missouri and have two children, Wanda and David. James C. (Shake) married Thelma Miles of Cisco. They have farmed in the Argenta-Oreana area ever since. They have two children, Bill and Mary. Bill is married to Betty Jo McVey of Argenta and they have two sons, Michael and Bradley. Mary is married to Jack Dickey and they have a son, John. John Jr. is married to Mildred Dugan and they farm in the Argenta area. They have one son, Albert, who is married to Rita Lewis and farms near Bible Grove. They have one son, Chad. Oscar is married to Helen Hurley of Decatur and they have two daughters, Kathy and Laurie. They live west of Decatur. Joseph died in 1953. Randolph is married to Helen Lake of Niantic and they have two children, Mary and William. Vivian is married to Robert Holly and they live in California.

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### *The Umbarger Family*

Mrs. Dora Umbarger, Nellie, Leonard and Harlan moved from the Pattengill Farm at Sidell in 1948 to the Pattengill farm southwest of Cisco. After living there one year they moved one half mile south where they now reside.

Nellie is a member of the Cisco United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women's Society. Leonard served in the Air Force from 1942 to 1946, some of this time being spent in France and Italy. Ralph (deceased) and Ernest are sons of Dora Umbarger also. There are eleven grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. Ellen Umbarger, a daughter of Ernests, stayed with the family, graduating from Argenta-Oreana High School in 1949. Ellen married Orville Frye Jr. and now resides in Tuscola.

Mrs. Dora Umbarger passed away in 1963 and her husband Samuel Umbarger in 1940. They are buried in Clarksville, Illinois.



## Calvin Vannote Family

Calvin Vannote, son of William A. Vannote and Minnie Swisher Vannote, was born near Galesville. He married Leora Eubank on July 4, 1925. They lived in the Monticello area until 1936 when they came to Cisco. To this union five children were born, two of whom died in early childhood and Michael, a member of the armed forces, died in heart surgery. Alice is living in Farmer City and William is living in Decatur.

Calvin bought the Marathon Station of Mrs. Lucinda Wheeler which he operated until Sept. 1, 1972.



## Walker

Madison "Mad" Walker (1857) and Sarah Bradford (1866) were married in 1882 and farmed in the Cisco community for many years. To this union were born thirteen children, two dying in infancy: Arthur, Harry "Junk", Goldie, Viola, Alice, Emma, Oscar, Clarence "Danny", Hazel, Walter "Bad Egg", and Ethel.

Arthur married Bessie Redding and lived in Decatur. Harry married Mayme Newberry Seevers of Farmer City in 1915. Goldie married Earl Parton; moved to Monticello where he worked at the elevator, later lived in Decatur. Viola married Frank Elsea and lived in Decatur. Alice married Cyrus Edwards who worked for Jim Clifton several years in his blacksmith shop, then as a cemetery caretaker at Argenta. Their two daughters, Geneva and Kathryn married brothers, Raymond and Richard Moore. Their son Floyd is married to Betty Brockman, live in Decatur. Emma married Dola Cline, lived in Decatur where he was with the Illinois Terminal System. Oscar joined the Army, served in W.W. I, worked as a chef in Decatur and California, married Frances Bradley. Clarence married Anna Badorek in Decatur and worked for ITS. Hazel married Oscar Taylor of Decatur where he was employed as a machinist for Muellers and A. W. Cash Co. Walter married Dorothy Dechert, worked for the Wabash Railroad. Ethel married Bill McIntyre; later married William Robinson and lives in Decatur.

During the years between 1921-24 Harry ran a dray wagon in Cisco. He went broke due to extending too much credit, so he decided farming was a better way to make a living. In 1928 they moved to Decatur; he died in 1962 and Mayme in 1973. His step-sons are Donald and Dale. Donald Lee Seevers (1911- ) married Sophia Avis Wiggins in 1934. Their children are Stanley Lee (1936- ) married to Miriam Briggs, Carolyn Jean (1938- ) and Rollin Dean "Polo" (1940- ). Stanley, his father and brother are employed as carpenters and/or millwrights. Dale Arthur Seevers married Doris Latch of Decatur, have three children and reside in Florida.

Harry and Mayme Walker had five children: Earl Walker married Mary Leach (a niece of Jersey and Charlie Leach) live in Decatur, have two children; Robert Walker married Marge Dieler, have five children and reside in Decatur; Harry, Jr., married Kathryn Mann, have two boys and live in Decatur;

Carl married Gladys Koontz and had three children (Gladys died in 1963), then Carl married Ann Wyland. Lorraine married William Spencer of Kenny, lives in Decatur with their three children.



## Samuel Weddle John H. and Daniel Weddle

Samuel Weddle and Anna Spencer Weddle migrated with their children from Kentucky to Illinois in 1845, and located in Morgan county. The journey was made on a flat boat and steamer and when they landed at their destination the father had fifty cents left. In 1856 they moved to Willow Branch Township. Samuel bought a quarter section of land for which he paid fifty cents an acre. It was in a wild condition just as the Indians had left it, and at one time Mr. Weddle counted thirty six deer. He died in 1888. They had thirteen children, among them being Mrs. F. M. (Elizabeth) Shull, John H., Mrs. William (Mary) Talbert, Daniel, Mrs. William (Martha) Wilson, Mrs. William (Emma) Marsh, and Mrs. Benjamin (Melissa) Stuart.

John Weddle (1844-1931) was born in Kentucky. He entered service at eighteen and fought in a number of battles in the Civil War and was discharged in 1865. He returned to his home, becoming a successful farmer and stockgrower. The home was a handsome brick residence, still being used today. He was married in 1873 to Amanda Cain (1854-1892), a native of Adams County. She was the daughter of Abel and Octavia Cain. Seven of their children were Minnie, Jesse O., Alva, Arthur, Wilbur, Bertha and Harrison. Amanda Weddle died at the age of 38. John married Zoia Irwin of Cerro Gordo. She helped him raise the children.



Jesse Weddle Family: LaVina and Jesse, Clifford and Lela.

Jessie Weddle (1876-1920) was born on the Weddle farm northeast of Cisco. He attended a country school and Brown's Business College in Decatur. He married LaVina Downs, daughter of George and Theodosia Meyers Downs in 1899. Jesse farmed and bought land from his father, John Weddle. He bought the first tractor in this part of the country and later built a tractor. He was an automobile dealer for Reo Company, and the first man to do mechanical work on automobiles in the county. Their children were Clifford M. and Lela. LaVina was a widow for seventeen years, then married C. C. Gool of Yates City, Illinois in 1936. She died in 1947.

Lela Weddle graduated from Illinois State University. She married Eldon Webb in 1926 and taught in several country schools. They lived on the Weddle farm until Lela's death in 1943.

Clifford M. Weddle married Edythe Brame in 1923. He was one of the directors of New Union school. He was the first graduate of Monticello High School to serve on the High School board and served two years. He retired from farming because of his health and took up the hobby of making furniture from walnut wood. They are the parents of John Maurice and LaVerne Elizabeth. Maurice married Mary McCulloch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace McCulloch of Paris, Illinois. They are the parents of Diane, Dana and David, and live in Denver, Colorado. LaVerne married Richard Gucker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gucker of Monticello. Their children are Douglas and Charles and they live in Baltimore.

Daniel, son of Samuel and Anna Weddle, married Clara McCollister and they had five children; Effie, Irene, Albert, James and Dewey. Daniel Weddle ran a General Store on the northwest corner of Main and Dodge from 1899 to 1908 having had two partners: first Ed Stuckey and then Frank Kaufman. His wife, Clara, died in 1905 at the age of 46. Later he married Hannah Dohn and in 1908 he moved to Oklahoma taking his boys with him.



Daniel Weddle Family, front row: Dewey, Effie Weddle Armsworth, Daniel; back row: Albert and James.

Effie married W. Scott Armsworth in 1906 and has resided in Cisco ever since. They had two children, Hildred and William. Irene married Jess Hainline the same year. They farmed one of the Pattengill farms until 1920 when they moved to Idaho.

Albert returned to the Cisco community with his wife Myrtle (Gaines) Weddle where he ran a barber shop from 1917 to 1933. In 1933 he started a grocery store which, with the help of his family, he continued to run until 1963, when he and his son A. B. moved their store to Havana, Illinois where they now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Weddle had three children. Irene married Robert McKinley. She taught in the Cisco school system a short time before moving to California. They have a daughter, Jill. Daniel entered military service during World War II. He married Marilyn Snyder and just retired from the army in 1973. They have a daughter, Dawn. A. B. married Margaret Brown and they now reside in Havana. They have two sons, Jack and Daniel.



## The Weillepp Family

Frank S. Weillepp (1862-1942) was an early grain and coal dealer, banker and land-owner. He came to Cisco as a young man in 1881 from the Mowry Grain Co. of Forsyth and working for Mr. Mowry, his life-long friend and patron. In those early days he worked out of a freight car on the railroad siding. The grain brought in by horse drawn wagons was shoveled by hand directly into the box cars for shipping. He sold his elevator to the present day Cisco Co-operative in 1908.

Frank was associated with the pioneer Croninger family in the Croniger State Bank. He was married to Ada F. Naugle whose parents came from Oakley and ran the old hotel across the railroad tracks from the elevator. They were interested in the schools and churches of the village and gave the land for the Cisco school and the Presbyterian Church. Their two oldest children were sent to Champaign to finish high school and later the University of Illinois. In 1906 Frank and Ada moved to Decatur. Those children remaining in the area retain interest in Cisco and grain from nearby Weillepp farmland is still being delivered to the old F. S. Weillepp Elevator.

Frank and Ada had 8 children. They are: Leila (Mrs. V. G. Musselman) of Quincy; Carl N., an attorney, now deceased; Edward S. of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Louise (Mrs. Lester C. Ennis) deceased; Eva S. (Mrs. E. S. Millizen) of Decatur; Laura E. (Mrs. L. E. Bailey) of Decatur; Paul F. (deceased); and Max I. of St. Petersburg, Fla.



Do you remember Halloween in Cisco?

All the kids would get together and move everything not fastened down to the front of the school. The next morning school would not start until everything had been returned to its proper place. There was always one of Dick Reeves' buggies on the roof of the elevator. The "big kids" would take it apart, take it up piece by piece and put it together on the roof. The last time it was done, the buggy got broken somehow — and everyone decided it was time to quit. It was all meant and done in good fun. The destruction of someone's property took all the fun out of it.

## Whisnant Family

About the time the Illinois Central Railroad was laid, Lewis Andrew Melvin (1848-1918) and his wife, Martha Ann Chandler settled on a section of land west of Cisco. They had six children: Ernest, Henry, Lutie, Delora, Mabel, and Mary Myrtle. As the Melvin family came to adulthood and married, Ernest moved to North Dakota, Henry lived on a farm northwest of Cisco, Lutie married Charles T. Parr and built a home on their land southeast of Cisco. Mary married George Edgar Harland and they moved to California, Mabel Donavon now lives in Texas and Mary Myrtle married George Whisnant in 1910.

Myrtle and George lived on the Hoover farm southwest of Cisco for two years. They then moved to the family home to care for the Melvin parents and take over the farm. Myrtle attended Illinois State Normal and taught school two years before her marriage. George grew up, one of a family of four boys near Kunmundy, Ill. His father was David Whisnant, and his mother, Semelia Ann. George died in 1948, and Myrtle continued to live on the family farm until her death in 1966. Both are buried in Croninger Cemetery.

George and Myrtle had three children: Donald Melvin, Delora Lucille, and Lewis Edwin. All three children attended school at Cisco.

Donald graduated from high school in Monticello and attended Illinois State University. While teaching at Colfax, Ill., he met and married Edna Fortner. Later, they bought the Hoover farm, re-modeled and re-built all buildings. They had two sons: David Melvin and John Robert. David Whisnant, a U. of I. graduate, has a doctorate in chemistry. He married Linda Dyson of Monticello and is teaching at Ashland College, Wis. They have two sons, Clayton J. and Aaron J. John graduated and has a law degree from the University of Iowa. He married Cindy Smith of Sioux City, Iowa and they live in Minnesota where John is associated with Arthur Anderson and Co.

On Christmas Day, 1961, Donald and Edna were killed in an automobile accident, leaving the farm to their sons.

DeLora Whisnant graduated from Illinois State University, and taught public school music prior to her marriage to S. Edgar Lauther, a banker from Iowa. The marriage in the Cisco Methodist Church in 1941 was the first marriage to take place there that we know of. The ceremony was performed by a J. Dewey Muir, now of Decatur. Edna Whisnant was the matron of honor.

Lewis Whisnant graduated from the University of Illinois School of Business. He married Phyllis Brown of Decatur and became treasurer of Mississippi Valley Structural Steel Co. in Missouri. Their son, Kerry, is enrolled at the University of Missouri.

For many years the big yellow barn on the Melvin farm was a landmark of the area, and it had the year 1888 high above the hayloft door, which was the year of Mary Myrtle Melvin's birth.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry White on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

## The Harry White Family

Harry and Grace White moved to Cisco in 1943 from a lifetime of farming. Harry, son of Thomas R. and Diantha Perkins White, was born in 1869. He had six brothers: William, Ernest, Bert, Fred, George and Charles, and one sister Edith Garver. All are deceased. Grace was born in 1884 near Clinton. She had three brothers: George, Harry and Frank Lyons, and four sisters: Jessie Lyons, Hildred Lyons Pirtle, Julia Lyons Stymets (deceased), and Sabina Lyons Massey. Harry and Grace were married in June 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. White had three daughters: Bertha White, Beulah White Culwell and Betty White Burton, and three sons: Harry, Thomas (deceased), and Paul. There are three granddaughters and three grandsons. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 26, 1950 and lived to have their 65th anniversary.

Mr. White's one desire and ambition was to be 100 years old. On August 26, 1969 he celebrated this occasion with family, relatives and friends at his home in Cisco. He received greetings from President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson and also from the Governor of Illinois over the years. Mrs. White passed away in 1964, and Mr. White in 1970.



## The Victor R. White Family

Victor White (1898-1970), son of Thomas and Etta White, came to Cisco in 1916 and worked for Harley Miles on the farm. He married Edna Hoover in 1925 in Decatur. All of their married life they lived on farms near Cisco. After Edna's death in 1962, he married Mildred Pittson of Monticello in 1966.

Edna White (1898-1962) was the daughter of William and Louisa Hoover. She came to Illinois in 1915 with her parents and lived near Deland on the Keele farm. A few years later they moved to the Keele farm at Cisco.



They were the parents of two children, Harold and Lucille. Harold was born in 1932 and is married to Lois Dobson, a registered nurse, in 1955. They are the parents of three children, Beth, Derek and Kelly. They live in Kansas City where Harold works at Marion Laboratories.

Lucille was born in 1929 at Cisco. She married Earl Wright, son of Ralph and the late Elsie Wright of Bement. They lived in Bement until 1969, when they bought the Prudie Huffmaster home and moved to Cisco. They are the parents of two children, Alice (1958) and Kenny (1959). Lucille is employed as secretary in the United Way office in Decatur. Earl has been employed with the Piatt County Service Company for 18 years and has been an LP gas salesman for 12 years.



### *The Whitlock Family*

In 1965, the Stanley Whitlock family moved to the Elma Ater Estate, located southeast of Cisco. They moved here from White Heath. Betty Jean Wendt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wendt of Bondville, and Stanley M. Whitlock, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Whitlock of Olean, New York, were married in 1948. Stan had moved to Illinois where he graduated from the University of Illinois. To this marriage, in 1951, John Frederick Whitlock was born.

John graduated from Monticello High School. He married Patsy Lee Gowler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gowler. They have one son, John Shannon.

Stan is involved in farming and feeding beef cattle. They are both active members of the Cisco United Methodist Church.



### *Wikowski Family*

I was born in Ivesdale in 1898, attended school in Vera (Fayette county) and came to Cisco in 1912 on a small passenger train, walking four miles to my uncle Herman Wieland's house. I helped work on farms in the Shiloh neighborhood. In 1919 Ethel Monroe and I were married in Argentina. I moved to Cisco in 1933 and worked for Charles Olson for the next eight years. It was the depression, you could buy most anything for a dime but nobody had a dime in those days.

Ethel and I had five children: Virginia (1921- ) married to Kenneth Wiseman and live in Maryland. They have four children, nine grandchildren; Ruth (1923- ) married to William Greeson and live in Peoria where she is a beauty operator. They have two children, four grandchildren; Betty (1932- ) married to Clarence Keil and live in Peoria. She teaches school for retarded children. They have five children; Dean (1936- ) and wife June, live in Indianapolis. They have four children; Fred (1938- ) and wife June, live in Tennessee and have two children.

The next eight years were much better for us. We farmed the place where we lived. We baled hay and straw in summertime, ran a community slaughter



Ernie and Alta Wikowski

house in the winter where we dressed out a lot of meat, sausage and lard. The most we did one winter was between 500-600 hogs and 35 beefs. In 1922 I got started with the honey bees which I have kept for 52 years. I served for 7 years as secretary of Piatt County Beekeepers Assoc. In 1947 Ethel passed away. Again we had a tough row to hoe.

Alta Wilson and I were married in 1948 and I rented a farm near Maroa. I have two step children: Gene Wilson (1929- ) and Shirley (1939- ). In 1950 I served as Worshipful Master of the Cisco Masons. We built a new home in Maroa in 1964.

—Ernest F. Wikowski



### *The Andrew Jackson Williams Family*

Andrew Jackson Williams eldest son of Theophilus and Margaret Ross Williams, was born in 1836 in Pickaway County, Ohio. In 1858 he left Ohio and came to Champaign County, Illinois, moving to Piatt County in 1860. In 1862, he volunteered for service in the Union Army at Camp Butler, Springfield, Ill. He served in Co. H 107th Illinois Infantry. He was discharged at Salisbury, North Carolina in 1865, with the rank of Captain. His commanders were General Thomas and General Sherman.

In 1865, he married Violet Eliabeth Hurst, a native of Sangamon County, Ill. Their children were: Frank, Loton, Viola, Rosella, Margaret, Seymour, Scott B. Chester C., Bruce B., and Roy A. They lived and farmed 2 miles east of Cisco. They left the farm in 1903 and moved to Monticello. Andrew died in 1904 and Violet died in 1936.

Frank Williams attended Valpariso, Ind. Teacher's College, later teaching in the schools in Piatt County. In 1889 he married Martha Ann Grove of Monticello. He invented several items, which included an automatic farm gate, Monarch, for which he was granted

a patent; Champion Grain Scale, which measured the grain from a threshing machine before it was dumped into the wagon; a Williams scoop board; and a single frame two row corn planter, for which he received a patent. He and his family later moved to Oklahoma.

Loton married Mary Etta Stuckey of Cisco in 1891. There were six children born to this union: Bessie, Tiny who died in infancy, Esther, Kenneth B., Juanita, and Carl Jackson. Loton was a carpenter and built one of the homes they had lived in, which is now occupied by the Peveler family. He operated a store in Cisco and then went to farming the "home place," where his father had previously lived and farmed. Later the family moved to Wisconsin, with the exception of Bessie, who had married Harold B. McKinney (see McKinney history).

Viola Williams married Clement J. Doane in 1896 at Monticello. They lived on a farm northwest of Cisco. They both passed away in 1934.

Rosella attended a teacher's college and taught one year. She married Emmett F. Brown in 1893. They lived in Monticello and Decatur before moving to California in 1912.

Margaret Williams (see Margaret Williams-Jones McIntosh history).

Seymour graduated from the University of Illinois in 1901. He joined the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church that year. In 1902 he married Jennie May Bennett. He completed his seminary training at Barrett Biblical Institute of Evanston, Illinois. They moved to the Mission Field in Montana and later to the state of Washington.

Scott B. married Virginia Stewart in 1908. With his brothers, Bruce and Chester, they operated a department store in Monticello, where Kaiser's are now located. They sold and moved to Decatur, and operated a department store in the building now occupied by Carson Pirie Scott. Chester later operated a shoe business in Tennessee where he married Freda Patton. They later moved to California. Bruce Williams later traveled for a shoe firm then located in Chicago. He married Ethel Westerman.

Roy graduated from Monticello High School in 1903. He chose to continue his education — later studying violin in Paris, France. Upon his return to the states, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, and then taught in several colleges and universities. He married Beulah Pierce. They had one son, Robert Roy. After his health failed, Roy came back to Cisco to retire, living one-half mile east of Cisco. His son Robert, after attending Michigan State University, farmed the land for his father.

Robert married Marjorie Stone in 1951. She received her education from MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill., and her master's degree in education from the University of Illinois. They have four children: Jean, Jane, Julia Ann, and James. Robert's family grew up and presently live in the home east of Cisco vacated by Roy and Beulah. Beulah resides in the house next door built by Robert for his parents.

## The Joseph Williams Family

In 1906 Joseph W. Williams and his wife, Alice, moved to Cisco from his farm west of Cisco. The year of 1917 marked the beginning of a seed corn sales business that later developed into a large, modern-day seed business in the village. He was also known for his ability to grow fruits and vegetables and always had plants to sell.

Joseph and Alice had one daughter, Zora. She and Warren S. Ater were married in 1912 and they had one son, Robert (1917- ). Robert named his granddad "Daddy Joe" and this became his nickname. Alice died in 1920 and Warren, Zora and Robert came to Cisco to live with Daddy Joe.

Warren S. Ater was a member of the Masonic Lodge for 55 years and served on the Town, School and Elevator Boards. Zora M. was a Past Matron in the Eastern Star and served on the Library Board.



"Daddy Joe" Williams

Robert W. Ater and Vione Tuggle were married in 1941 and they had one daughter, Alice Ann (1943-1944). They lived west of Cisco until 1960 when they quit farming because of illness and moved to Decatur where they now live.

Daddy Joe gave an organ to the Methodist Church in memory of his wife Alice. He died in 1953. Warren and Zora built a house east of Cisco and lived there until she died in 1967 and he died in 1969.



## Wiseman

David O. Wiseman and his wife, Nellie Carter Wiseman, moved to the Cisco community from Leavenworth, Indiana, in 1918. They had four children, all born at the Leavenworth address. David Wiseman died in 1954, and his wife died in 1970.

Gerald Wiseman married Helen Davis of Macon, Illinois. After living in Illinois for many years, they now reside near Crawford, Mississippi. They have two children — Bill and Jim. Both children are married.

Kenneth Wiseman married Virginia Wykowski of Cisco. They have lived in Baltimore, Maryland, for several years and have four children, all married: David, Larry, Terry and Sharon.

Dean Wiseman married Lillian Seifert of Washburn, Illinois, their present address. They have two children — Hal with the United States Army, and Bob, still at home.

The youngest son, David Wiseman, Jr., died of pneumonia shortly after the family moved to Cisco.



Pete and Katie Young

### *Young Family*

In 1863 Isaac (1822-1899) and Eliza (1827-1900) Young came to the Cisco community in a covered wagon from Garfield C., Ohio. They established their home, a log cabin, south of what was to become Cisco.

Among the children of Isaac and Eliza were: Lewis "Bud" Kistler (Eliza's son from a former marriage), Peter Christian "Pete" (1859-1942), Jesse, Al, Emma and Clara.

Pete Young moved to Illinois with his family when he was four years old. As a small boy he herded cattle over this territory before there was a railroad or town.

When Pete was fifteen years old he ran a team and slip scraper and helped build the railroad. Before there was a town they shelled by hand the little corn they grew and hauled it to Bement. There weren't any roads so they drove their wagons on high ground.

In the fall of 1885 Pete Young and Katie Stuckey (1868-1933) were united in marriage. They had one child, Edith Mae, born in 1886. They farmed and lived one mile southwest of Cisco at the same place the P. C. Barnhart family lives today. Pete ran an ice house in Cisco. He helped form the Cisco Grain Elevator and was on the board of directors.

Jesse Young married Eunice Wilson and they farmed the home place of Isaac and Eliza Young south of Cisco until they moved to Decatur in 1916.

They were the parents of five children: Mrs. Herb (Bliss) Ridgley, Cecil, Jessie, Mrs. Russell (Lucille) Martin, and Lewis. Jesse died in 1944 and Eunice in 1958.

Edith Young married William Reed Barnhart in 1908, and had three children: Mrs. William (LaVerne) Patrick, Mrs. Gerald (Katheryn) Sites and P. C. "Bud". Reed died in 1956 and Edith died in 1969.

P. C. Barnhart has farmed for over thirty years some of the same land his grandfather Peter C. Young farmed. For the past several years along with farming Bud has operated Bud's Barn Antique Store in Cisco.



### *The Donald Zindar Family*

Donald and Ruth Zindar and daughters, Marilyn Dee and Donna Ruth, moved to a farm southwest of Cisco in 1946 from east of Monticello.

Don, the oldest of four children of Charles A. and Nina Jones Zindar, was born near White Heath. He graduated from White Heath Grade and Monticello Community High School. He is a member of the Farm Bureau.

Ruth, one of four children of Eugene and Jennie Rodgers Bell, was born near Seymour where her grandparents were early settlers. She graduated from Seymour Grade and Champaign High Schools and attended the University of Illinois.

The Zindars are active members of the Cisco United Methodist Church. She was active in 4-H Club work, Eastern Star, Cisco PTA, Woman's Club and Home Extension.

Their daughter, Marilyn Dee, is married to Robert Cannon and they live at Monticello. They have a daughter, Susan Dee. Marilyn is a registered nurse on the staff of the DeWitt-Piatt County Health Unit.

Their daughter, Donna, is married to Rolland Malone and they live at Maroa. Their children are Chris Allen, married to Janis Richards; and Candace Sue, married to Donald Benton. They have one son.



### *Remember When . . .*

Did you know there was an ordinance years ago that prohibited driving a steam engine across the sidewalk unless boards were put down across the walk (or planked). Arthur Gisinger failed to plank the walk and was fined for driving his steam engine across the walk. He paid his fine and went out, put one wheel of the steam engine on the sidewalk and drove down the sidewalk. When he got to where he was going got off his steam engine, went back and paid another fine and said it was worth the fine not to have to drive down the middle of the muddy road.





Steering Committee, front: Jack Floyd, Marjorie McCartney, Pat Swarts, Peg Clark, Irene Leischner, Opal Coon, Dale Leischner; second row: Gertie Briggs, Miriam Seevers, Peg Nolan, Betty Whitlock, Patricia Ford, Audra Pirtle; third row: Don Stephens, Stanley Seevers, Stanley Whit-

lock, Charles Fradenburgh and Sam Clark. Missing are: Dee Leischner, Jack Drew, Hildred Webb, Othello Remmers, P. C. Barnhart, Florence Hoffman, Shirley Sievers and John Miller.

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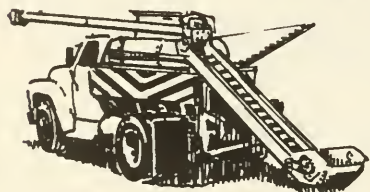
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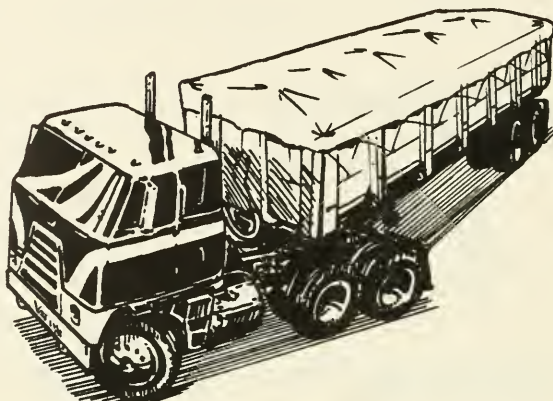


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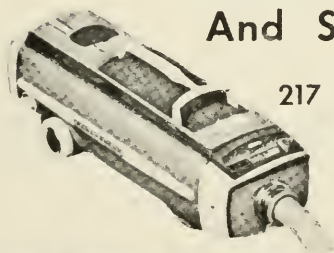
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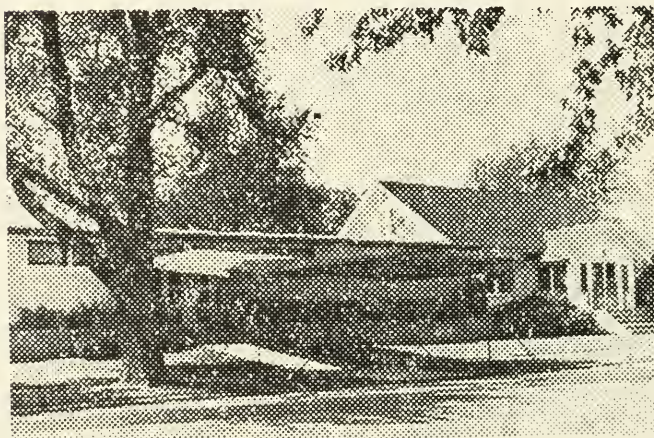
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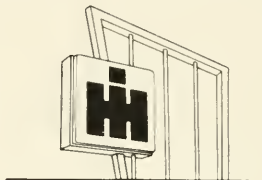
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On Its First 100 Years



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SINCE JUNE 11, 1874



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HILDRED F. PIRTLE, Clerk

RITA R. HATFIELD, Clerk

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MADDEN & TRIGG  
AGENCY

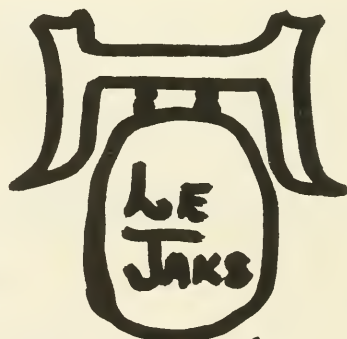


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Salon  
LEORA CLEFTON*

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Congratulations To Our Friends in Cisco in Their

100th Year

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Bob Miller

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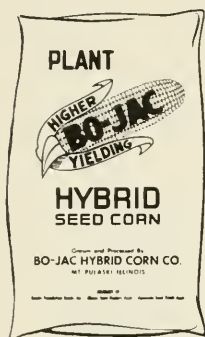
Best Wishes for a  
Successful Centennial



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PIATT COUNTY TREASURER





WE'LL CALL ON YOU!



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Phone 217-762-2009

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**MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS 61856**

**SHAKLEE CORPORATION • Member Firm of Direct Selling Association**

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## HAIL TO CISCO

Greetings from one oldtimer to another. Actually we got going a few years before you did. For us it was 1865. Day after day, every day since that time, we have searched the court house records to discover what deeds, mortgages, and other legal instruments have been recorded that day, who has divorced whom, who has gone bankrupt, who is being sued, what property is being foreclosed, etc. The list is a long one. We incorporate this voluminous material into our records and thus keep books on every piece of real estate in Piatt County. After more than a century our records have become priceless.

Some people don't understand why we do all this but the answer is simple. If you are buying a house you want to be sure the seller who expects to collect your hard earned money really owns the place and that no one else

has a claim against it. We type up a summary of all that has happened to the property for review by the attorney representing you, the buyer, and the attorney representing the lender in case you need a mortgage. If the title is good the sale goes through and the loan is made. If there are holes in the title the deal must be delayed until the holes are patched up. If it turns out they can't be patched, your attorney warns you and you call off the deal. At one time or another we suppose the security of every title in Piatt County has depended in part on the accuracy of our title searches.

Cisco and our company have been around for a long time but it has been a glorious experience. We have lived in the golden age of history for no other generation ever had it so good. We hope and expect that the next century will be even better.

## KAISER ABSTRACT COMPANY

**110 NORTH CHARTER STREET**

**MONTICELLO, ILL. 61856**

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# Centennial Greetings



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Piatt County Post 5346

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COMPLIMENTS OF

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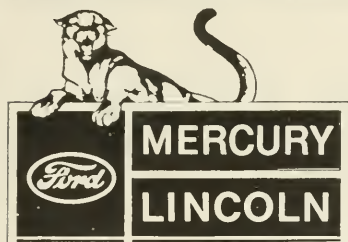
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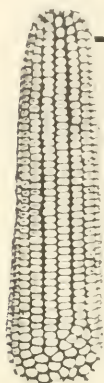
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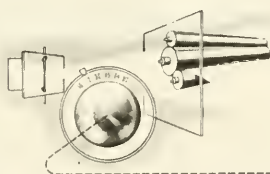
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